和月伸宏

漫画家になれたら30歳で死んでもいい。20歳の頃は本気でそう考えていました。気がつけば、30歳をとうに越えて、漫画家生活十年目。描きたいモノや気持ちは、おかげ様で依然コンコンと湧き続けているので、今死んだら正直困る。てか死ねない。創作半ばで閉ざされた人生…、そんな無念は既に見ている。

と、いう訳で健康を考えて酢を飲み始めました。↑の様に和月には丁度お似合いかも。

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ジャンプ・コミックス

雑誌 43010－70

学園を守るべく敵けつけたカズキと斗貴子。しかし、校庭に蠢く化物の恐怖に脅える生徒達には、化物を倒す二人も異形に映る。まきちらされた悪意に不信は広がり、カズキ達は生徒達の敵意の中、戦うことに…。

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プリティフェイス	1～9	叶恭弘
ごっちゃんです！！	1～5	つの丸
冒険王ビィト	1～9	三浦勇雄・稲田浩司
DRAGON DRIVE	1～10	佐倉ケンイチ
わたるがぴゅん！斗	1～38	強殖なかいまもと
風飛び一斗	1～17	門馬もと
CLAYMORE	1～27	八木教広
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Mr.Clice(ミスタークリス) Part Ⅰ～5		秋本治
I'll ～アイル～	1～14	浅田弘幸
ダブル・ハード	1～38	今野直樹
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Buso Renkin

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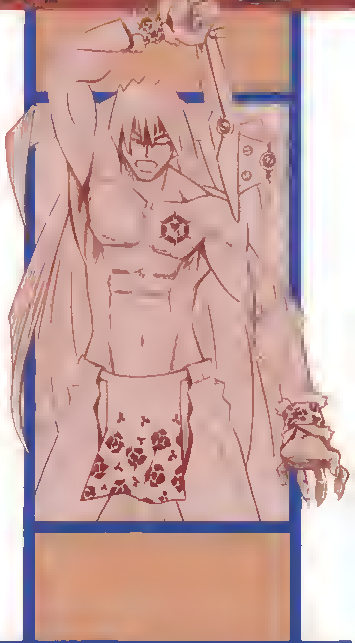

High school student Kazuki Muto had no clue what he was in for when he rescued damsel in distress Tokiko from a monster known as a "homunculus." Disguised as humans—who actually eat humans—homunculi are malevolent creatures that affix themselves to people's brains, and once fully grown, the only thing that can annihilate them is a weapon called *Buso Renkin*!

Upon arriving at the hidden headquarters of the League of Extraordinary Elects (the L.X.E.), the Alchemist Warriors learn of the League's plot to attack the high school. Kazuki and Tokiko immediately head over there, only to discover that the school has been surrounded by Dr. Butterfly's newly created humanoid homunculus soldiers. To the Alchemist Warriors' surprise and dismay, they find that not only are they facing Dr. Butterfly's minions, but the students of the school as well!

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"If I could be a manga artist, I wouldn't mind dying at 30."
That's what I thought when I was 20, but now I'm over 30 and I've been making a living as a manga artist for 10 years, and there are still so many things that I want to draw. The truth is, it would be really inconvenient for me to die now. I'm just not ready to go yet. (It was bad enough having to deal with the disappointment of being canceled mid-series.) Consequently, I've become more health conscious. I've even started drinking black vinegar. As you can see in the illustration, it might be a good thing to do.

—Nobuhiro Watsuki

Nobuhiro Watsuki earned international accolades for his first major manga series, **Rurouni Kenshin**, about a wandering swordsman in Meiji Era Japan. Serialized in Japan's *Weekly Shonen Jump* from 1994 to 1999, **Rurouni Kenshin**, available in North America from VIZ Media, quickly became a worldwide sensation, inspiring a spin-off short story ("Yahiko no Sakabatô"), an animated TV show and a series of novels. Watsuki's latest hit, **Buso Renkin**, began publication in *Weekly Shonen Jump* in June 2003

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA EDITION

STORY & ART BY
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Vol. 5
A Friend
of Everyone

Buso Renkin

ブソウレンキン

BUSO RENKIN
VOL. 5
The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Manga Edition

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NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BUSO RENKIN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains fantasy violence.

THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING MANGA
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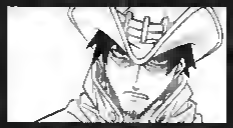
Dr. Butterfly (Bakushaku Chouno)

Papillon (Koushaku Chouna)



Captain Bravo (Warrior Chief)

Moonface

Mahiro Muto

STORY

Alchemist Warrior Tokiko comes to Ginsei City and uses herself as bait for the homunculi, artificial life forms that lurk in the darkness to devour unsuspecting humans. But Kazuki Muto, a high school student, unaware of Tokiko's intentions, tries to save her and is killed. Tokiko restores Kazuki's life with an alchemic talisman called a kakugane, and he fights at Tokiko's side to save his friends.

After Tokiko and Kazuki defeat Papillon's homunculi, Captain Bravo decides to train Kazuki to be an Alchemist Warrior. Meanwhile, Dr. Butterfly sends the homunculi Kinjo and Jinnai to eliminate Kazuki and the Warriors. The kakugane-armed homunculi are defeated, but soon a new threat arises--Kazuki and Tokiko's schoolmates Ouka and Shusui Hayasaka are sent to destroy them. In the battle that follows, the twins are revealed to be Familiars, human vassals of the homunculi. But when Tokiko goes in for the kill, Kazuki stays her hand, and the Hayasaka are placed under the protection of the Alchemist Warriors.

From Ouka, the Warriors learn the secret location of the L.X.E. hideout, which they then assault. There they encounter only Moonface, who has been left behind to delay them. To their horror they discover that Dr. Butterfly has taken the Warrior Traitor to complete his recovery by feeding on their fellow students!

Hideyuki Okakura

Masashi Daihama

Koji Rokumasu

Chii-chin (Chisato Wakamiya)

Angel Gozen

Saa-chan (Saori Kawai)

Alchemy

Alchemy is an early proto-science combining elements of various disciplines that swept through Europe over the millennia. Its goals were the transmutation of base metals into gold and the creation of an Elixir of Immortality, neither of which succeeded. But unknown to the world at large, alchemy achieved two earth-shaking supernatural successes--the homunculi and the kakugane.

Kazuki Muto

Kazuki was once killed by a homunculus but was restored to life by Tokiko, who replaced his heart with a magical talisman called a kakugane. Kazuki is 16 years old, a year older than his sister Mahiro. His Buso Renkin is a lance called "Sunlight Heart."

CHARACTERS

Homunculus

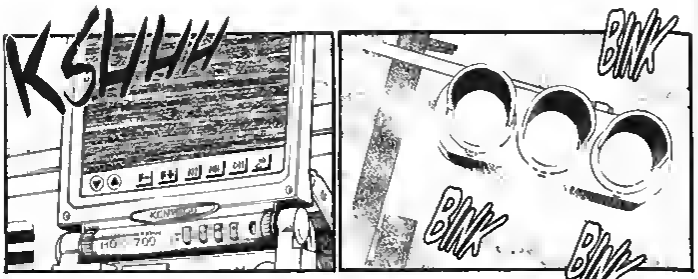
An artificial being created by alchemy. The form and powers of the homunculus differ depending on the organism it was based on. Homunculi feed on human flesh and can only be destroyed by the power of alchemy.

Kakugane

The kakugane are forged from a magical alchemic alloy. They are activated by the deepest parts of the human psyche, the basic instincts. Each kakugane can materialize a unique weapon called a Buso Renkin.

Tokiko Tsumura

A girl chosen to be an Alchemist Warrior, an expert of Buso Renkin. Her Buso Renkin is a Death Scythe called the "Valkyrie Skirt."



CHAPTER 37
IN THE SAME CATEGORY

BUSO RENKIN
Volume 5: A Friend of Everyone

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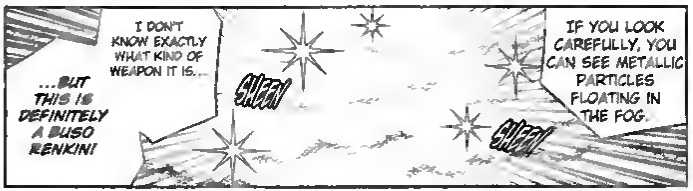
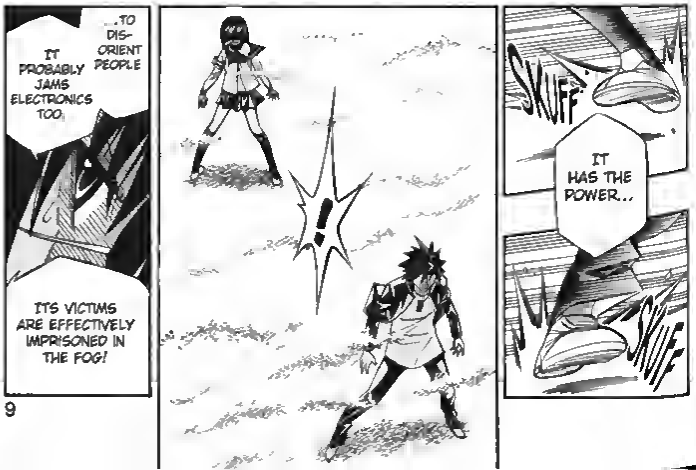

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IT IS...
...BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY A BUSO RENKIN!
SWEEP
SWEEP
IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU CAN SEE METALLIC PARTICLES FLOATING IN THE FOG.



CHAPTER 37: IN THE SAME CATEGORY

THIS WAY! FOLLOW ME!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?!
FWIP
!
OF URSE!
YOU CAN NAVI-GATE IN THIS FOG?
IT'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DISABLE OTHER BUSO RENKIN LIKE THIS
IT'S SPREAD OVER A LARGE AREA SO ITS POWER IS DIMINISHED.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOKIKO?
KAZUKI, HIDE YOUR FACE.
YOU DON'T WANT THE STUDENTS TO RECOGNIZE YOU.
TMP
THEN TAKE THIS
TMP TMP TMP TMP
BETWEEN THE FOG AND MY LONG HAIR, I SHOULD BE OKAY AS LONG AS NOBODY SEES ME UP CLOSE.
IT'S THIS UNIFORM THAT'S THE PROBLEM

HE'S FLOATING IN THE AIR! WHAT'S THE TRICK?
YACK
YACK
YACK
WHO'S THE OLD MAN?
WHAT'S THAT BIG LIGHT BULB?
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
CHECK OUT THE MUSTACHE!

THOSE FREAKS ARE MOVING!
LOOK!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY?
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
WHAT DO THEY WANT?
!!

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY, MAPPY?
MAYBE WE SHOULD STAY IN OUR OWN CLASSROOM.
HERE THEY ARE
YACK
GOOD
YACK

I'M NOT SURE WHAT WE CAN DO, BUT WE'LL TRY TO BUY YOU GIRLS SOME TIME IF THINGS GET ROUGH.
IT'S OKAY. OUR TEACHERS ARE USELESS IN THIS SITUATION.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL PROTECT YOU.

LET US FEED!!
??!
LET US FEED!!
DOM
LET US FEED!!
GWAAH
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

READ THIS WAY
FWASH!
AAAH!
BUSO RENKIN!
REVISED HUMANOID HOMUNCULI.
I SET OUT TO CREATE HOMUNCULI THAT CAN STAND AGAINST THE ALCHEMIST WARRIORS WITHOUT BUSO RENKIN, BUT...
...THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR WARRIORS.
BUIP
AS I FEARED...
STILL...
LET US FEED!
...THEY SHOULD MAKE SERVICEABLE CANNON FODDER.
FWOOO

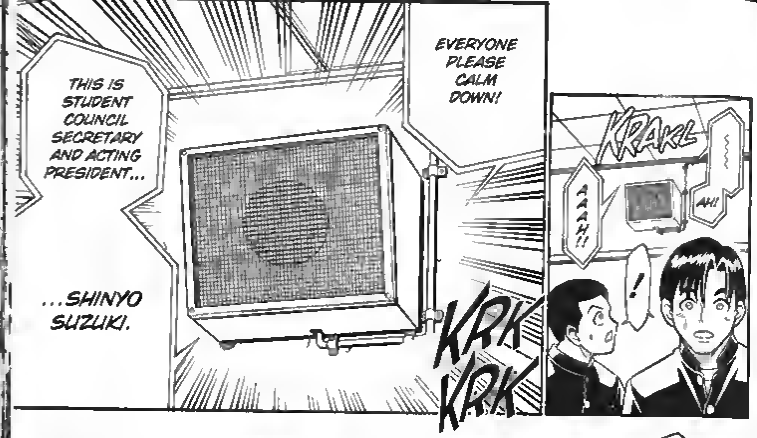
DESTROY MY ENEMIES!
FWASH
DESTROY THE HOMUNCULI!
OKAY, UGLIES!
GWAAAAA
THIS IS AS CLOSE AS YOU GET!!
BA-BUMP
!!
WE MADE IT IN TIME!!
SNAP
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME
ALCHEMIST WARRIORS.

...

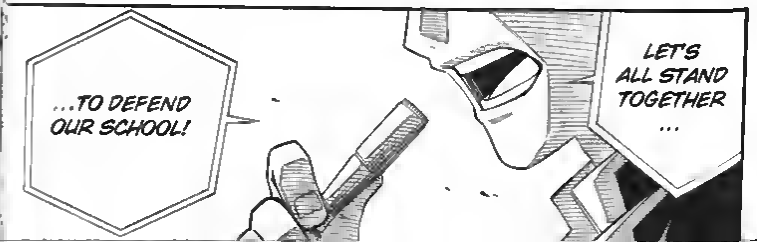
ARE THOSE TWO...
...HUMAN?
THEY'RE TAKING ON..
...THOSE MONSTERS
...

OH!

KA-BAAM
BAM
KRASH
KRAK
THUD
WHAM
BOOM
...
THEY'RE FIGHTING THE MONSTERS!
THOSE TWO...
WHAT ARE THEY?!


THIS IS STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY AND ACTING PRESIDENT...
...SHINYO SUZUKI.
EVERYONE PLEASE CALM DOWN!
KRAK!
AAAH!!
AH!!
KRK KRK

WUZZ
WE CAN'T CONTACT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
WE'RE COMPLETELY CUT OFF.
WE CAN'T COUNT ON ANYONE TO COME SAVE US ..
SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS.


...TO DEFEND OUR SCHOOL!
LET'S ALL STAND TOGETHER ...

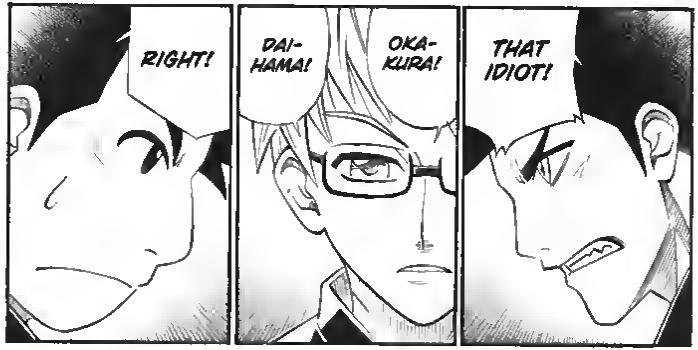
AAAH ...
AH ...
WHAP
!

THEY LOOK HUMAN BUT THEY'RE MONSTERS!!
THEY'RE MONSTERS .. JUST LIKE BEFORE...
SHAKE
SHAKE

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
CHII-CHIN?

EEEEEEEEEK!!
!
KRASH
CHII-CHIN?!

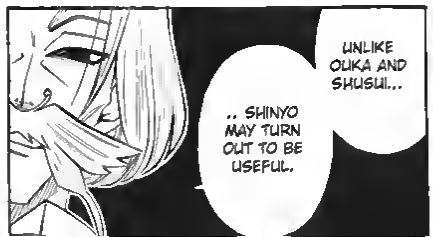
READ THIS WAY
IDIOT.
MONSTERS...
MONSTERS
MONSTERS...
MONSTERS...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ


RIGHT!
DAI-HAMA!
OKA-KURA!
THAT IDIOT!

TROMP
LET'S GO!
TO THE BROAD-CAST ROOM!!

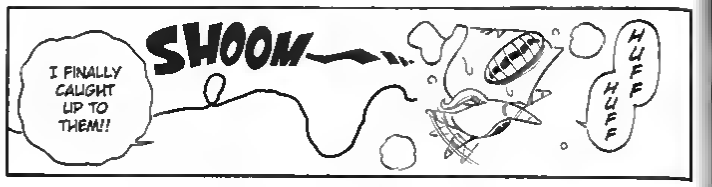
WE CAN'T LET THOSE MONSTERS...
...GET INSIDE!

!!


UNLIKE OUKA AND SHUSUI...
.. SHINYO MAY TURN OUT TO BE USEFUL.

HEH...

CHAPTER 38:



A FRIEND OF EVERYBODY 和伸 月宏

Height: 158cm, Weight: 44kg
Measurements: 83-57-85
Born: April 28, Aries, Blood Type: A, Age: 16
Likes: Mahiro, Saori, Japanese confections
Dislikes: Ghosts, spirits, and monsters
Hobby: Searching for new sweets (especially Japanese)
Special Ability: Pulling all-nighters (record is 2 1/2 days)
Affiliations: Ginsei Academy Year 1 Classroom A
Dorm resident

Character File No. 20

CHISATO WAKAMIYA

Author's Notes

Originally created as a background character in the first episode.
Then I thought, "even if Mahiro is close to Kazuki, having only her brother for a friend is a little weird." So she was upgraded to supporting character.
I named her after the older of my two nieces. Now I regret having made her hair so much like Tokiko's because I'm afraid I'll mix them up when I get tired.
She's smarter and more straightforward than most of the other characters. She's the most practical one in Mahiro's circle of friends. Because of that, she's not as well equipped to deal with bizarre situations. You probably won't see it in these pages, but she helps Mahiro and Saori prepare for tests. Chisato is meant to be more normal than the others.

READ THIS WAY
RIGHT.
SNUP
NOW...
...IS NOT THE TIME TO CONVINCE THEM WE'RE HUMAN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, GOZEN
JUST FIND YOURSELF SOME COVER.
TUP
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL YOU!
NOW ...
THUD
IT'S TIME TO FIGHT!!

WHU
MP
KAZUKI!
?!
WAAH
WAAH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
HEY!
THUD
KRASH
THUD
STAY AWAY!
GET OUT OF HERE!

...BUT OVER TIME THEY'LL BREAK THOSE MONSTERS' SPIRITS!
BAGS! NOTEBOOKS! DESKS AND CHAIRS! THEY'RE NOT MUCH INDIVIDUALLY...

...FAMILIAR SHINYO
HITTING THEM FROM BOTH SIDES IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA...
HMM...
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THOSE MONSTERS!

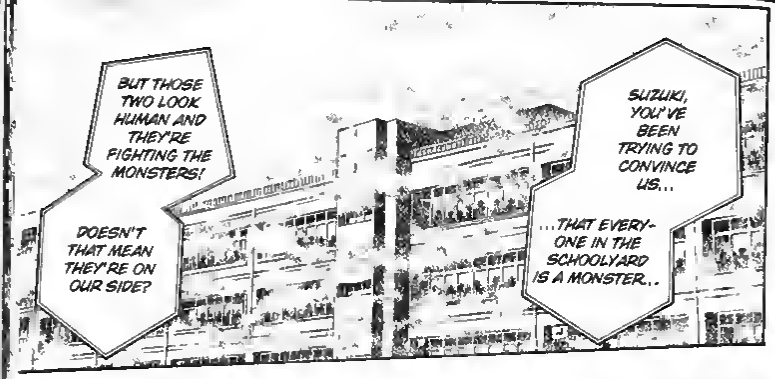
FRUMP
--KI!!
KAZU--

KI-SHWAK
SHOW THEM YOUR WILL TO RESIST!
SHOW THEM YOUR DEFIANCE!

LOOK! ONE OF THEM IS INJURED!
ONE GOT PAST US!
TACH
TACH
HURRY ...
WE HAVE TO GET IT!!
RMP
FINISH HIM OFF!
YA-WHA
?!
...A TWO-FRONT ATTACK IS SURE TO BE UNNERVING.
FOR A YELLOW-BEAKED CHICK OF A WARRIOR SUCH AS HE...
WHZ
NO—!!
WOOSH
UGH!
KAZUKI!

!
CH UNK
DAIHAMA, LOOK OUT!
AH!
HUH?
IMP!
YOU
...
JERK!
...
KP UNCH

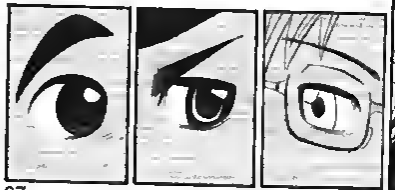
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!
BROADCAST ROOM
DAIHAMA, GIVE IT A TRY!
DARN IT! IT WON'T OPEN!
OKAY, BUT IT LOOKS PRETTY STRONG.
THAT'S A SOLID, SOUNDPROOF DOOR. WE'RE GONNA NEED TOOLS.
HAAA
ACTUALLY, IT BROKE...
IT OPENED!
...
DIE, DOOR!!
WHA
K
RAK
DAI-HAMA?
WHAT A FACE!


BUT THOSE TWO LOOK HUMAN AND THEY'RE FIGHTING THE MONSTERS!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE?
SUZUKI, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE US...
...THAT EVERY-ONE IN THE SCHOOLYARD IS A MONSTER..

THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE!
NO ORDINARY HUMANS COULD FIGHT THOSE MONSTERS LIKE THEY'RE DOING.
DON'T BE STUPID!

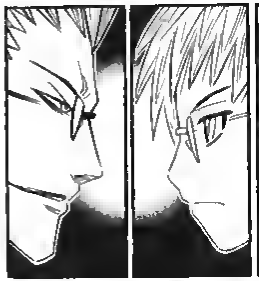
WELL, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT THEY ARE.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO ASSUME THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE.

!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING COMMON ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
COMMON SENSE?



THIS BROADCAST IS A SACRED DUTY! I'LL FIGHT YOU IF I HAVE TO!
KRK KRK
WUZZ
WUZZ
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT GO AHEAD AND HIT ME!
KRK
HEH HEH ...
KRK KRK
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

I'VE GOT TO DEFEND THIS SCHOOL!
I WON'T STOP THIS BROADCAST FOR ANYTHING!
SMI
RK



DON'T BOTHER.
CLOBBERING HIM WON'T STOP THOSE MONSTERS
OKAY, THEN I'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF--
KRK

THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE!
THOSE TWO MONSTER FIGHTERS ARE OUR FRIENDS!
...WHO'D SAVE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO KILL HIM!
THAT FOOL OUT THERE IS THE KIND OF GUY...
FWAP
FWAP
A SUPER BIG FOOL!
A REALLY BIG FOOL!
FWAP
FWAP
BUT FOOL OR NOT...
KRK
YOU IDIOT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT ?!

HUH?
WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE!
THOSE TWO...
...ARE OUR FRIENDS.
AND ONE OF THEM LOOKS LIKE HE'S HIDING HIS FACE ON PURPOSE.
YOU CAN'T SEE THEIR FACES IN THIS FOG.
WOOO
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
WE KNOW WHO HE IS.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE HIS STUPID MUG...
WE'VE BEE HANGING O TOGETHER FOR YEARS
WE CAN TELL.

READ THIS WAY
!!
WHAM
KRASH
AAAAH!
ONE OF THE MONSTERS IS BREAKING IN!
LET'S FEED!!

ANGEL GOZEN ...
WHAT ARE YOU ...?
MORONS.
...A NICE GUY LIKE HIM WOULD NEVER TRY TO HURT YOU GUYS.
PLUP PLUP
GASP
STARE
UM...
WELL...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
I HEARD THAT, SUZUKI. HOW DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
ARE THOSE KIDS OUT THERE REALLY ON OUR SIDE?
...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO'S RIGHT?

AAAAAH!
2-B
CHAK
WE HAVE TO RUN!
I CAN'T ...
GET UP, CHII-CHIN!
TWITCH
THUD
I'M T-TOO S-SCARED ...
RUN, SAORI!
CHII-CHIN!

TMP
!!
MAPPY, LOOK OUT!
MAHIRO ...
CHII-CHIN, SAA-CHAN ...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
ABOUT THAT SCARY DREAM I HAD?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
I... ... REMEMBER NOW.

HE'S GOING TO SAVE...
...ALL OF US!

AND MY BROTHER CAME AND SAVED ME IN THE END.
WELL, THAT DREAM WAS REAL.

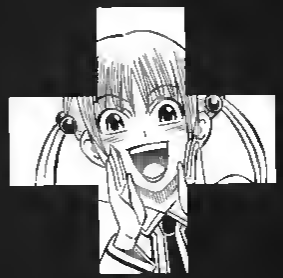
SHUU
BUT THIS TIME, HE'S FIGHTING FOR ALL OF US!
AND HE'S GOING TO PROTECT ME AGAIN NOW!
GRA A

CHAPTER 39. OVERFLOWING POWER

Height: 152cm, Weight: 39kg
Measurements: 75-54-79
Born: January 13, Capricorn, Blood Type: B, Age: 15
Likes: Mappy, Chii-Chin, Western confections
Dislikes: Everything about studying
Hobby: Searching for new sweets (especially Western ones)
Special Ability: Sleeping for a long time (record is 2 1/2 days)
Affiliations: Ginsei Academy Year 1 Classroom A, Dorm resident

Character File No. 21

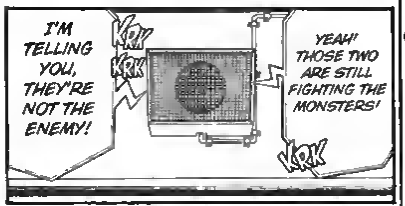
SAORI KAWAI



Author's Notes

- Like Chisato, she was created as a background character and was elevated to a supporting role
She's named after the younger of my two nieces. Since the design for Chisato was rather simple, I wanted to do the opposite with Saori so I gave her pigtails. The fact that her pigtails and bangs are different lengths every time I draw her is a secret that I'll only acknowledge here
Like most teenagers, she likes to play and follows the latest trends. Of Mahiro's group, she's the least psychologically rigid so she's better able to cope with crazy situations. You probably won't see it in the pages of this manga, but after school she drags Mahiro and Chisato out to go window-shopping and try out new restaurants. She's pretty normal, but in a different way than Chisato.

CHAPTER 39: OVERFLOWING POWER



READ THIS WAY
COME OUT HERE, MONSTER!
IF WE ABANDON THOSE GIRLS TO THOSE MONSTERS, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE OURSELVES!
DOOM
HUH?
THE MONSTER?
WHAT?
WIP
WIP
...SAVED ALL OF US!
THE MAN WITH THE LANCE...
...KILLED IT!
THE GUY WITH THE LANCE..
...THOSE TWO ARE...
REALLY?
THEN...

YEAH.
YES!
WHAT ABOUT SAA-CHAN AND CHII-CHIN?
YEAH.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAHIRO?

I HAVE TO GET BACK.
TOKIKO'S FIGHTING BY HERSELF RIGHT NOW.
JUMP

OKAY!

2-B
THEN LET'S GO!
EVERY-BODY GOT A WEAPON?
YEAH!
I-I THINK SO!
ARE THERE STILL SOME GIRLS IN THE ROOM?!
TMP TMP TMP

ENERGY!
MAX-IMUM...
BOOM
WHAM
KRAK
BLOOSH
HIS WILL TO FIGHT SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED
BUT THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG
ARE THE WARRIORS UNEXPECTEDLY POWERFUL
OR..
ARE MY REVISED HOWLIN-GULI JUST TOO WEAK?
GRK

I'LL SPLATTER ...
...YOUR GUTS!
SHWAK
SHWAK
SHWAK
SHWAK
SHWAK
SHWAK

READ THIS WAY
IT WASN'T AIMED AT US..
TOKIKO, THAT DESK..
BLOOSH
SHUNK
YOU WANNA MAKE US PUKE?!
!
ENOUGH WITH THE SAPPY SPEECHES!
HEY YOU GUYS, FOCUS!
I'M FINE.
IT'S LIKE THERE'S STRENGTH WELLING UP INSIDE ME!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KAZUKI?
TUP...
TOKIKO!
YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN YOU WERE FIGHTING PAPILLON.
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE KAZUKI FIGHTS FOR OTHERS INSTEAD OF FOR HIMSELF.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE DRAWS STRENGTH FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
THW AP
LET US
UP THERE!
FOOM
!!

RAAA
AAAH
RAH
IF YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE...
...THEN WE'RE ALL ON YOUR SIDE!
WE WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN!
I MEAN, BOY I DON'T KNOW!
GO FOR IT, BIG BR—
RAH
I MIS-JUDGED YOU!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
RAH
RAH
THANKS FOR SAVING US!
THAT WAS COOL!
RAH

READ THIS WAY

KRUNCH GRERK GRERK GRERK GRERK

THEY'RE NOT EATING EACH OTHER! NO...

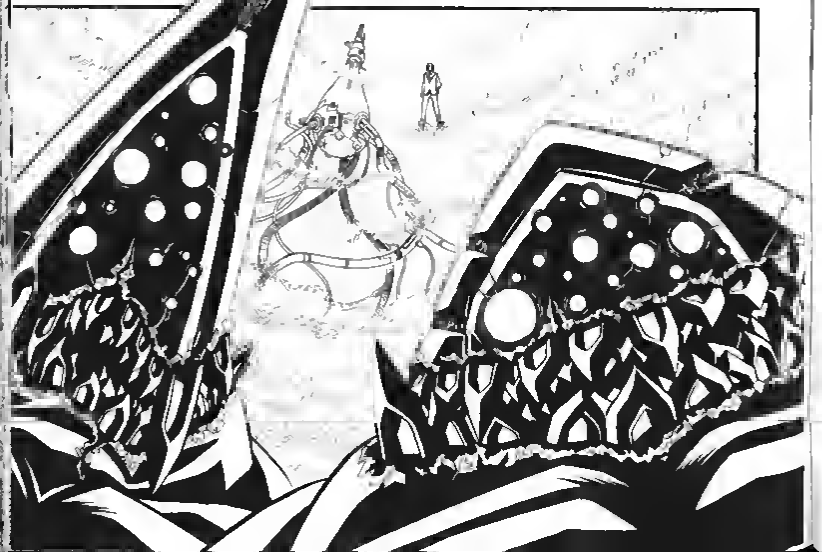
THEY'RE ...!!

GLUP CHOMP GLUP CHOMP GLUP GRERK

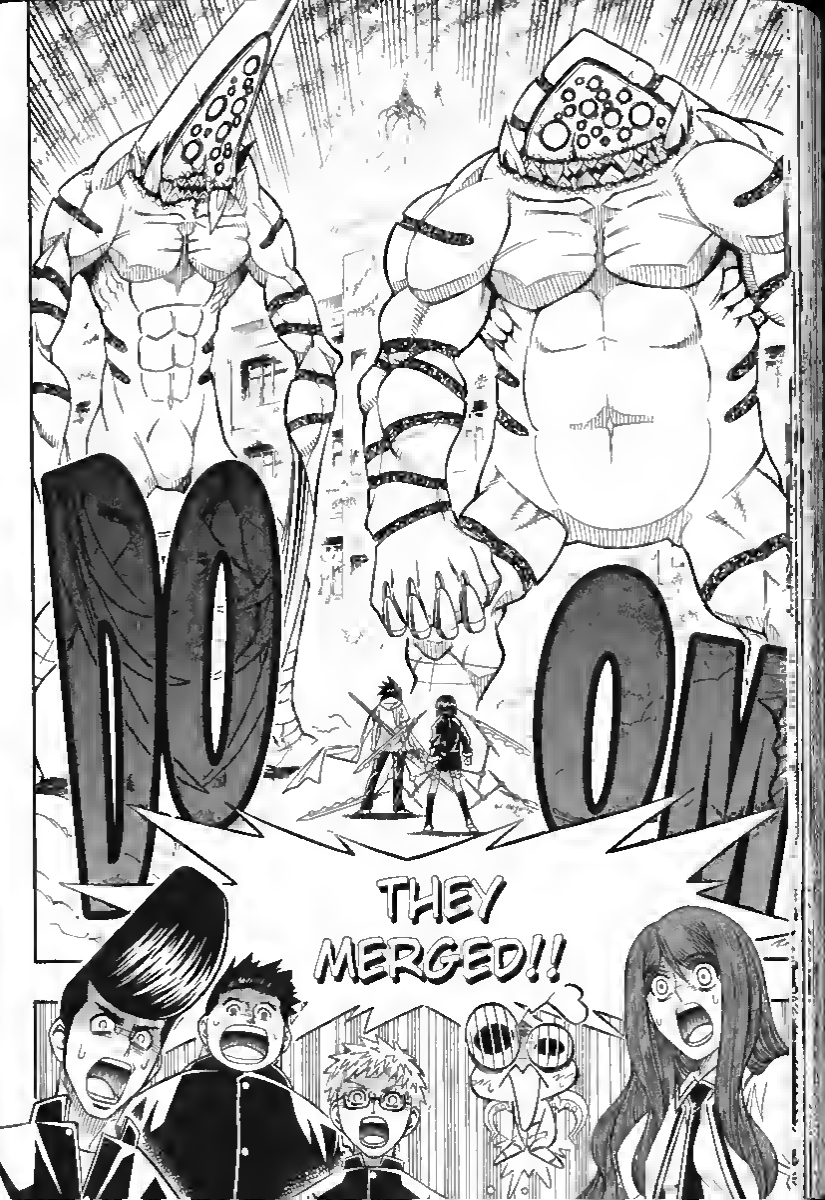
WIZZ THEY'RE EATING EACH OTHER!

GROSS... WIZZ

KRUNCH CHOMP GLUP GLUP CHOMP



GO!
THE SUPER REVISED HOMUNCULUS!
WHOOM
TMP
!
KAZUKI!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
LEAVE IT TO ME TOKIKO!
...I FEEL BOUNDLESS POWER SURGING THROUGH ME!
MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ...
MAXIMUM
ENERGY!!


THEY MERGED!!

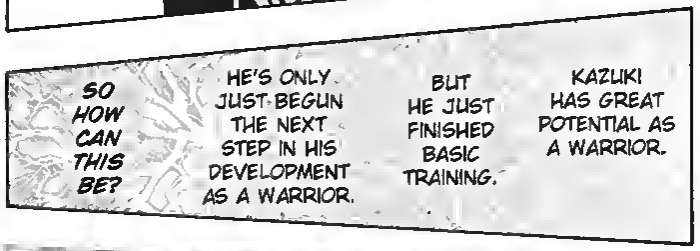
KREK
KREK
KREK
KREK
Wooooooo

IT REALLY IS LIKE HE'S DRAWING STRENGTH FROM THOSE AROUND HIM..
HE'S SO STRONG!!
WHAT STRENGTH!!

FWASH
Ha-
Ra

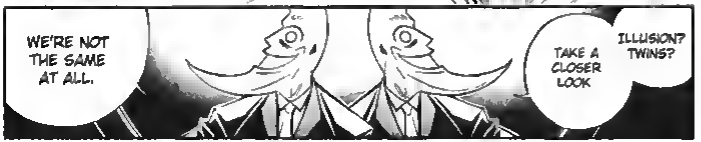
READ THIS WAY
NO, WAIT!
IT'S BIG! THAT'S ...
HUH?
IT'S JUST A BUTTER-FLY...
YOU'VE GROWN SO POWERFUL, I HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU, KAZUKI MUTO.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, SO HAVE I!
ZAK
ZAK
CHOUNOU

HE SHOULDN'T BE THIS STRONG!
NO, IT'S NOT THAT!


SO HOW CAN THIS BE?
HE'S ONLY JUST BEGUN THE NEXT STEP IN HIS DEVELOPMENT AS A WARRIOR.
BUT HE JUST FINISHED BASIC TRAINING.
KAZUKI HAS GREAT POTENTIAL AS A WARRIOR.

IT'S AS IF ...
THIS POWER ...
HIS STRENGTH ...

LOOK!
WUZZ
WHAT'S THAT?
!
TOMO
ONE LEFT!



CHAPTER 40: A SIGN OF DEATH

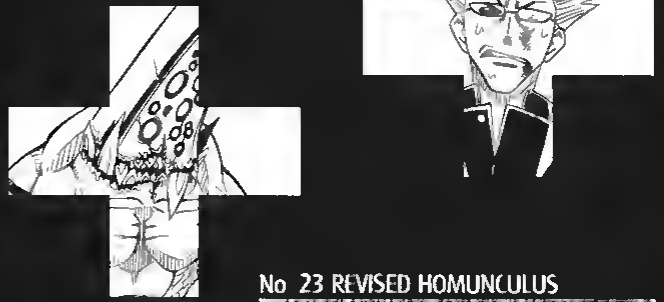
Height 174cm, Weight 66kg
Measurements 83-57 85
Born November 9, Scorpio Blood Type AB Age 17
Likes Pencils
Dislikes. Mechanical pencils
Hobby Reading (books about crime only)
Special Ability Debate
Affiliations Ginsei Academy Year 3 Classroom D L.X.E (Familiar)

Author's Notes

The name Shinyo comes from a WWII Japanese suicide weapon Originally he was supposed to be a dangerous young murderer with a Buso Renkin but story restraints wouldn't allow that
He ended up being a pretty pathetic character but I think he served his function well
He will not appear again

No 22 SHINYO SUZUKI

Character Files



No 23 REVISED HOMUNCULUS

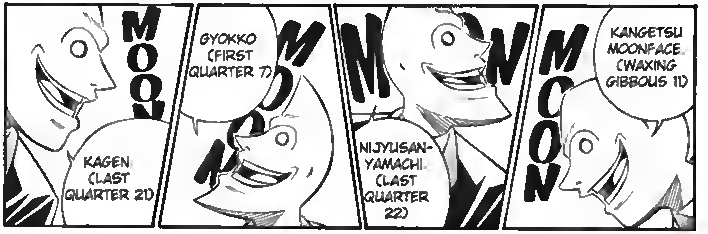
He's one of Dr Butterfly s specially designed Homunculus an amalgamation of animals and plants
Good fighters but not very smart puppets to Butterfly s will
Able to merge into a single, giant Homunculus by feeding on each other

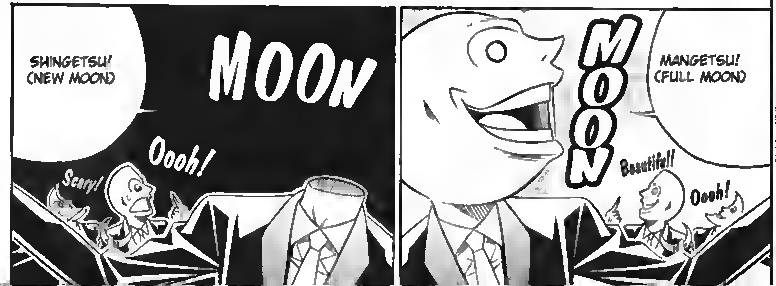
Author's Notes

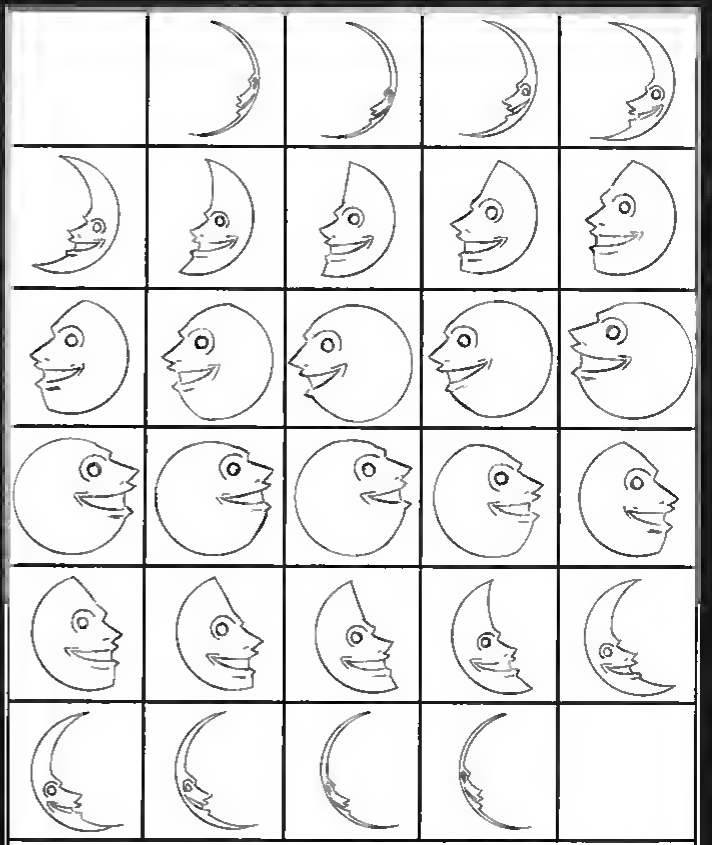
I needed an army of monsters for this story and this was what I came up with.
The design concept combines the conical hats of the KKK with the physiques of bodybuilders
I found myself regretting making the giant Homunculus here

THAT IS THE POWER OF THE MOON FANG DUSO RENKIN...
THERE ARE *30 PHASES OF THE MOON!
SO I CAN CREATE 30 VARIATIONS OF MYSELF!
SATELLITE 30!

*THE VARIOUS VERSIONS OF MOONFACE ARE NAMED FOR THE 30 PHASES OF THE MOON IN JAPANESE







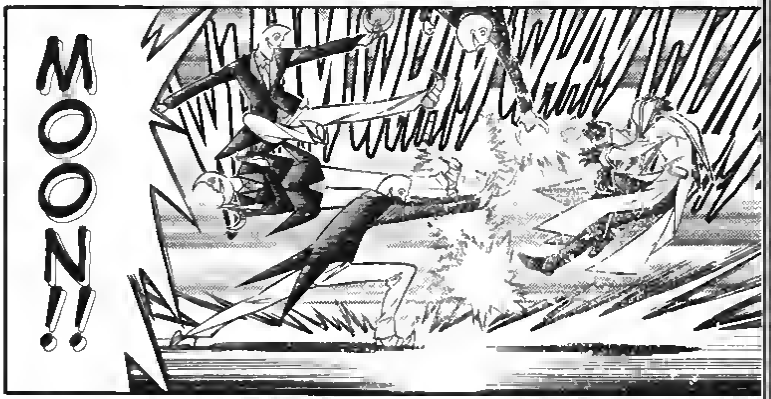
CHAPTER 40:

A SIGN OF DEATH

伸宏
和月

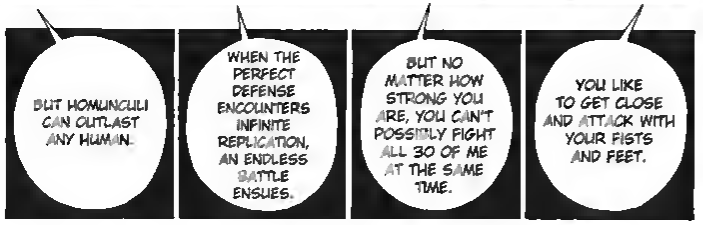
BRING IT!!
COME ON!
VEEN
OON !!
M--
BRAVO CHOP!!
SLASH!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

MOON, MOON!
MOON!
MOON!


MOON!!

HUFF!
THE SILVER SKIN IS INVIN-CIBLE!
CHAK
GIVE UP!
CHAK
CHAK
SHWIFF
KLANK
WHOOM

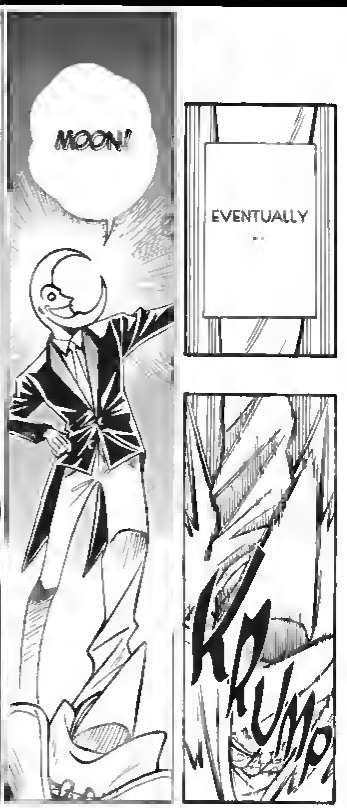
MOON!
AS YOU CAN SEE!

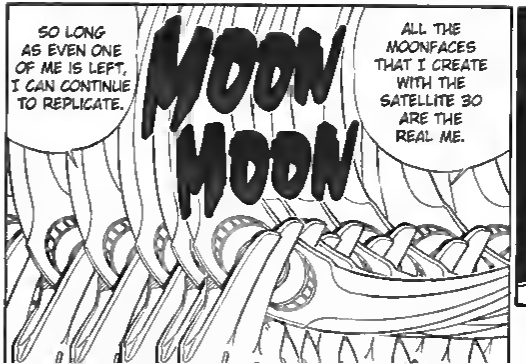

BUT HOMUNCULI CAN OUTLAST ANY HUMAN.
WHEN THE PERFECT DEFENSE ENCOUNTERS INFINITE REPLICATION, AN ENDLESS BATTLE ENSUES.
BUT NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY FIGHT ALL 30 OF ME AT THE SAME TIME.
YOU LIKE TO GET CLOSE AND ATTACK WITH YOUR FISTS AND FEET.

SOON HE WILL AWAKEN.
THEN THOSE YOUNG WARRIORS WILL BE DESTROYED.
GIVE UP.
YOU FELL INTO DR. BUTTERFLY'S TRAP.

THIS BATTLE CAN ONLY END...
...IN YOUR DEATH!

TMP
YOU THINK YOU'VE WON DO YOU?
MOON?
IT'S BEEN EXACTLY ONE HOUR. YOU'RE THE LAST ONE


MOON!
EVENTUALLY...
KRUMP


SO LONG AS EVEN ONE OF ME IS LEFT, I CAN CONTINUE TO REPLICATE.
MOON MOON
ALL THE MOONFACES THAT I CREATE WITH THE SATELLITE 30 ARE THE REAL ME.

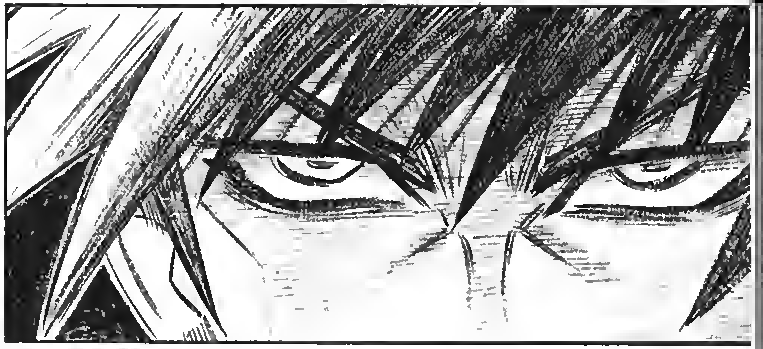
LAST ONE? OH NO.

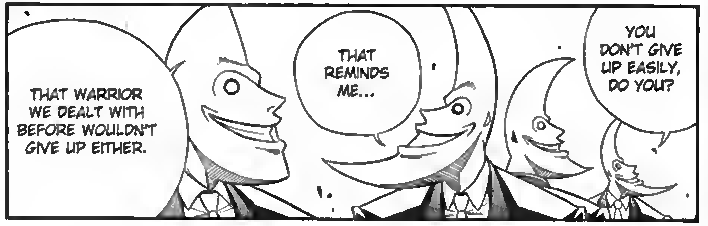
ALTER-NATE TYPE!
SILVER-SKIN!

BRAVO!
WHUP

THE ONE THEY TOOK BACK FROM KINJO!
KAKU-GANE 52!

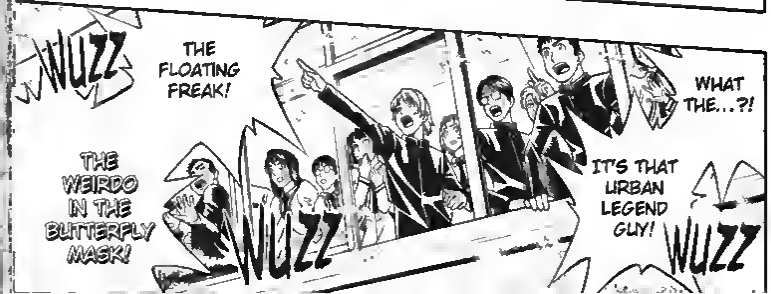
...BUSO RENKIN!
DOUBLE U...




THAT WARRIOR WE DEALT WITH BEFORE WOULDN'T GIVE UP EITHER.
THAT REMINDS ME...
YOU DON'T GIVE UP EASILY, DO YOU?

SHWIFF
SO HE WENT DOWN FIGHTING!
IS THAT SO?
HE DIDN'T GIVE UP?
MOON?
IT TOOK US TWO WHOLE DAYS TO FINISH HIM OFF.

DO
OM


WUZZ
THE FLOATING FREAK!
WHAT THE...?!
THE WEIRDO IN THE BUTTERFLY MASK!
WUZZ
IT'S THAT URBAN LEGEND GUY!
WUZZ

AS I SAID, IT'S POINTLESS FOR YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSES. YOU CAN'T WIN.
HE HASN'T BEEN LISTENING.
HE'S A FOOL.

AND ALCHEMIST WARRIORS ARE NO ORDINARY WARRIORS!
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
THE SILVER SKIN IS FAR MORE THAN JUST A METAL JACKET!

BUT I WON'T LET ANY MORE OF MY BRAVO TEAMMATES DIE!
WARRIOR TOKIKO AND WARRIOR KAZUKI WILL FIGHT ON, NO MATTER WHAT YOU THROW AT THEM!
DOOM

MEANWHILE
W
O
O
O
O

...OR IGNITE IT ON MY COMMAND!
I CAN CONTROL ITS SHAPE ...
...AND MOVE IT WITH MY WILL...
FWAGH
SHWAP
?!
BUSO RENKIN OF...
...BLACK POWDER!

WHY HAVE YOU COME? I DIDN'T SEND FOR YOU.

IS HE A GOOD GUY?
OR A BAD GUY?!

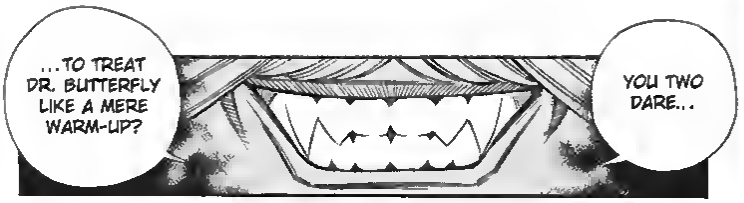
THOSE WINGS... THEY'RE A BUSO RENKIN!
ACTUALLY ...
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU HOW HIGH I CAN FLY ON MY OWN.

FOOSH
NEAR-DEATH HAPPINESS!!
CORRECT. IT'S CALLED ...

...LAST OF ALL...
AND THEN ...
WOOOO
ALL RIGHT, CHOUNO ...
BUT I'D LIKE TO CHANGE THE ORDER.
I'M GONNA DEAL WITH THE L.X.E. FIRST! AND THEN...
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU!!
THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL COMES LAST!

...IF I SAY SO MYSELF.
I'M QUITE POWERFUL ...
...OF YOUR PROTECTION ANYMORE.
AAAAAAH
WOA
FWOOOOOSH
I'VE NO NEED...
...I'LL BURN THIS SCHOOL-- OF WHICH I HAVE ONLY BAD MEMORIES-- TO THE GROUND.
THEN MAYBE...
THANK YOU, DEAR GRAND-FATHER.
WOOO
I THINK I'LL SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE FIRST...

DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
NOW THE REAL BATTLE BEGINS!!
TUKP
AK


...TO TREAT DR. BUTTERFLY LIKE A MERE WARM-UP?
YOU TWO DARE...

!!

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUE POWER OF BAKUSHAKU CHOUNO, FOUNDER OF THE L.X.E. ...
...WHOSE POWER HAS BEEN INCREASING FOR OVER A CENTURY!!
I'LL DEAL WITH ALL THREE OF YOU RIGHT NOW!
RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP
EWEEEEEEK

CHAPTER 41 PAPILLON VS. BUTTERFLY, Part 1

DOOM
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
FLASH
VEEN

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!
YACK
YACK
MY EARS!!
YACK
YACK
WHAT'S THIS?!
VEEEEE
AT LONG LAST MY FRIEND HAS...
THE ALARM.
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
...AWAKENED!

THIS IS HOW HE FEEDS!
HE CAN ABSORB LIFE FORCE AND CONVERT IT INTO ENERGY FOR HIMSELF WITHOUT MAKING PHYSICAL CONTACT!
HE DOESN'T NEED TO FEED ON INEFFICIENT FLESH.
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING QUICK...
...THE STUDENTS WILL SLOWLY BUT SURELY...
CHAK CHAK
THIS IS BAD, KAZUKI.
I CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS FORM. WITH OUKA STILL RECOVERING, I DON'T DARE

...DRAINED UNTIL THEY DIE!
...HAVE THEIR LIFE FORCES...
POOF

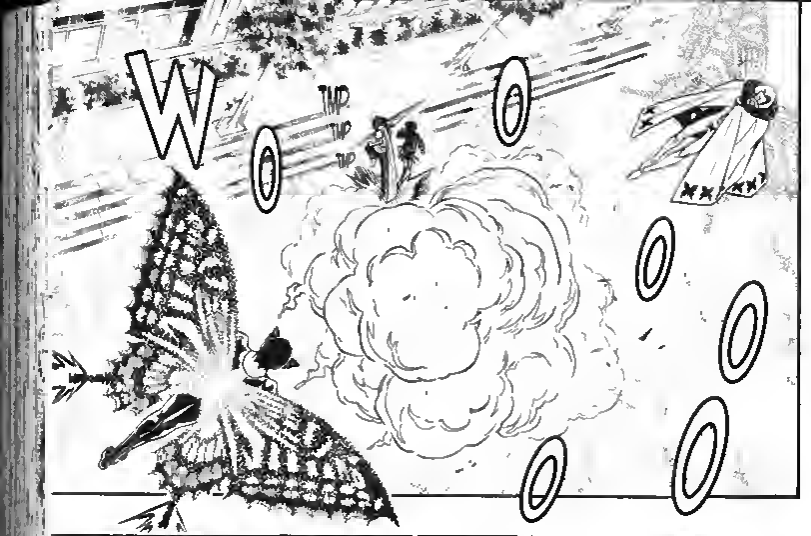
UGH!
GOZEN ?!
WHAT'S THIS...?
!!

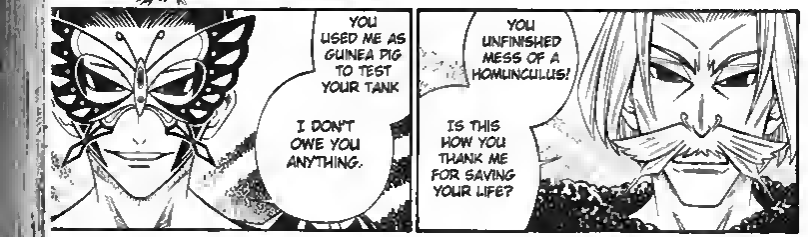
HUFF
CHII-CHIN! SAA-CHAN!
HUFF
THIS IS WEIRD
SWAY
HUH? I FEEL KINDA ...

MY STRENGTH
...IS BEING SUCKED AWAY...
IT'S LIKE...
UNH...
UNH...
HUH ?!
SHUUUUUUUU

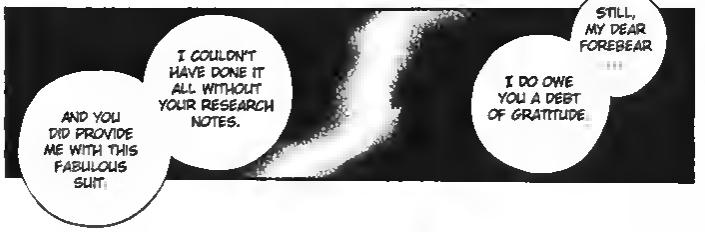
FW
UP
!
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER DO IT MY WAY?
WHY DO IT MUTO'S WAY?
FWIP
FWIP
BOOM
UNGH!!

OH NO ...
...YOU DON'T!!
CHAPTER 41:
PARILLON VS. BUTTERFLY, Part I
神月宏
SILENCE, PUP! DR. BUTTERFLY, NO...
LORD BUTTERFLY COMMANDS HERE!


W
TMP
TMP
TMP

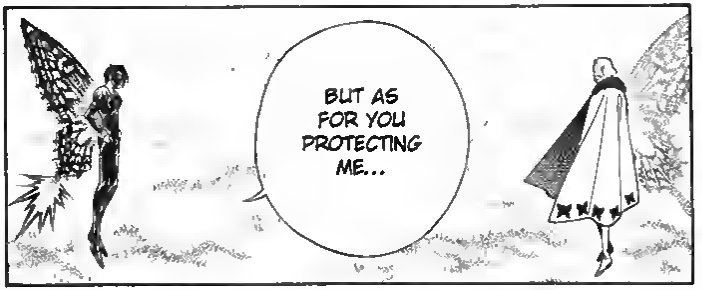

YOU USED ME AS GUINEA PIG TO TEST YOUR TANK
I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING.
YOU UNFINISHED MESS OF A HOMUNCULUS!
IS THIS HOW YOU THANK ME FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE?

I ACQUIRED THAT FOR MYSELF.
WHAT ABOUT THE KAKUGANE?


AND YOU DID PROVIDE ME WITH THIS FABULOUS SUIT.
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ALL WITHOUT YOUR RESEARCH NOTES.
STILL, MY DEAR FOREBEAR
I DO OWE YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

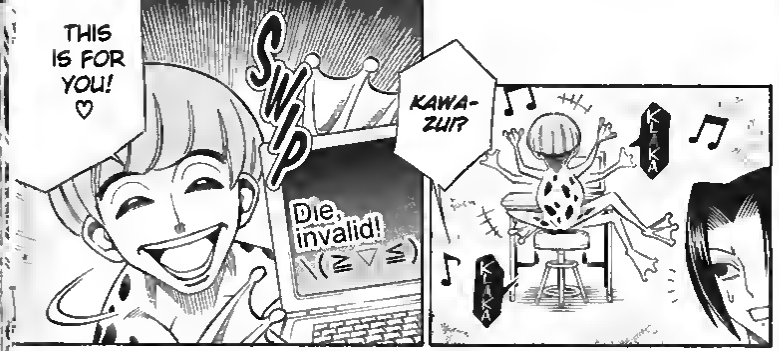
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT THING!!
QUIET, KAZUKI!
CHOUNO!
IF THEY WANT TO FIGHT EACH OTHER, LET THEM
MAYBE THEY'LL TAKE EACH OTHER OUT.
THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS...
WIP
WIP
FIRST THINGS FIRST!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
LET'S GO, TOKIKO!!

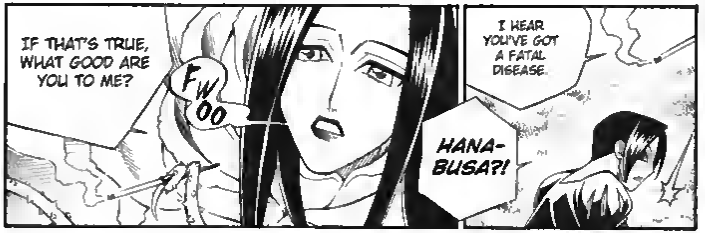
WHEN FOCUSED, ITS POWER IS UNIMAGINABLE!
WINK
HEH
WINK
FOOL, THAT'S THE DIFFUSED EFFECT THAT OCCURS WHEN MY BUSO RENKIN IS DEPLOYED OVER A WIDE AREA.


BUT AS FOR YOU PROTECTING ME...

WHAT?
SHE
?!
BEHOLD MY BUSO RENKIN'S TRUE POWER!

AND IT MAY COST YOU YOUR LIFE!
SLASH
YOU'LL SOON SEE WHETHER I NEED PROTECTION OR NOT!
IT DISORIENTS EVERYTHING, WHETHER ELECTRONIC AND LIVING.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR BUSO RENKIN!
BUT IT'S NO MATCH FOR MY NEAR-DEATH HAPPINESS!
WINK
WINK
THEN YOU MUST DIE!
VERY WELL.
THIS IS REBELLION!


THIS IS FOR YOU! ♡
SWP
Die, invalid! ヽ(≧▽≦)
KAWA-ZU!?
KIKI
KIKI


IF THAT'S TRUE, WHAT GOOD ARE YOU TO ME?
FWOO
I HEAR YOU'VE GOT A FATAL DISEASE.
HANA-BUSA?!

FOR-GET IT, WASHIO ... I'VE GIVEN UP ON HIM. JIROU WILL BE MY HEIR.
...OR YOU'LL NEVER BE WORTH ANYTHING.
TROMP
!
WE'D BETTER TRAIN YOU..
IS THIS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN WASTING YOUR TIME?

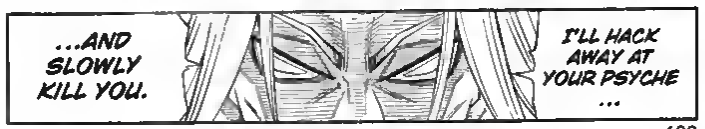
FWIP
FWIP
AHA!
THERE IT IS!

WITHOUT IT, I...I... AAAAH!!
AA AA AA AA ZA NGH!!
IT'S GONE!!
MY MASK!

HEY, DON'T RUN IN THE HALLS!
AAAH! WAIT!!
SCB

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BEAN SPROUT!
WUMP
DO US ALL A FAVOR AND DROP OUT.
HUH? YOU'RE STILL IN SCHOOL?
SARU-WATARI ?!
MITA?

*CHAFF--BITS OF METAL OR PLASTIC SCATTERED TO CONFUSE ENEMY RADAR



READ THIS WAY
!
HEH
BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED!
I'M A NEW MAN NOW!
THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE WHEN I WAS STILL HUMAN...
FLY, MY PAPILLON!
MY NAME IS...
FLY, MY BLACK DEATH BUTTER-FLIES!

DO DO
YOU'RE LOST IN WONDER-LAND.
...YOU CAN'T EVEN DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION
I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN EVEN HEAR MY VOICE.
YOU'RE A COWARD AND A WEAKLING, KOUSHAKU!
GRIN
...WHILE YOU'VE USED IT TO ESCAPE YOUR FEAR OF DEATH!
I'VE USED ALCHEMY TO DEVELOP MYSELF AND HEALED THE ULTIMATE LIFE FORM...
WE MAY BOTH BE CHOUNO, BUT I'M THE BETTER MAN.

KOU-SHAKU !!
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
ONLY HE WHO DEFEATED THE WEAK-HEARTED CREATURE I ONCE WAS!
ONLY ONE PERSON CAN CALL ME BY THAT NAME!
SO COME, DEAR ANCESTOR! THIS TIME AROUND, ILLUSION OR NOT, I'LL BLAST THIS WHOLE PLACE AND YOU WITH IT!

...I'VE GOT MY MASK BACK!
IT MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN AN ILLUSION, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU...

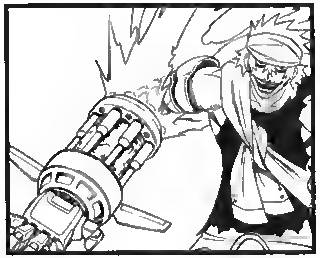
I SEE THAT TAKING AWAY YOUR MASK ONLY WORKED AGAINST ME!
WINK
WINK
WINK
WILL ONE BE ENOUGH?
FWUP
HMM ...
THEN I'LL HIT YOU WITH A DIFFERENT HALLUCI-NATION!
VERY WELL ...
LOSE YOUR-SELF ...
I WON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO COUNTERATTACK!
...IN WONDER-LAND!
I'LL HIT HIS BRAIN WITH A HALLUCINATION OF EXTREME PAIN THAT THE SHOCK WILL KILL HIM!

Hyahooo!

Buso Renkin File No. 4

ピーキーガリバー

PEAKY GULLIVER



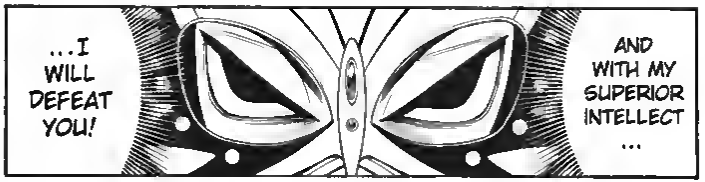
- Kakugane Serial Number: LII (52)
- Creator: Homunculus Kinjo
- Form: Right Gauntlet
- Main Color: Moss Green
- Special Abilities: Able to grow to gigantic size
- Special Traits: Able to instantly suck elements out of the air to increase the Buso Renkin's size and mass.
  It is a simple impact weapon, but if it connects, the effects can be devastating.
  Overall it's kind of a plain weapon. .

Author's Notes.

The truth is, until just before the pages were finalized, this weapon's special ability was the Rocket Punch. Its little wings are left over from that. But in the end that seemed too ordinary.

In terms of design, I used a *Gundam* model kit as a reference and based it on a Gatling gun.

Whenever I got stuck with this character, I could always just have him yell, "Hyahoo!"

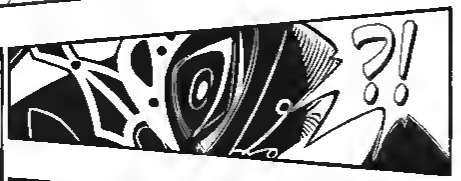

...I WILL DEFEAT YOU!
AND WITH MY SUPERIOR INTELLECT ...

...MADE THE NEXT MOVE.
I'VE ALREADY ...
BOOM
和伸
月宏

BOOM
ZAK
WHAT ?!

I'VE ALREADY FIGURED YOU OUT!
BEFORE I GOT SICK, I WAS SOMETHING OF A GENIUS
...
BUT I ONLY NEED TO CREATE A SMALL EXPLOSION TO COUNTER YOUR FLASH!
WHICH MEANS IT AFFECTS THE BRAIN BY WAY OF THE VISION!
THOSE DAZZLING FLASHES OF LIGHT ARE THE KEY TO YOUR WONDERLAND ATTACK. THEY CAN EVEN PENETRATE EYELIDS!

WOOSH


?!

INSIDE THIS FOG, YOU COULDN'T HIT ME IF I WERE STANDING TWO FEET AWAY!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? MY ALICE IN WONDERLAND DISTORTS THE SENSE OF DIRECTION.
SLWOOo

I'M PREPARED FOR ANYTHING YOU MIGHT DO!
IF YOU'RE A GENIUS, THEN I AM A SUPER-GENIUS!
SLWOO
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SURPRISED?
WID

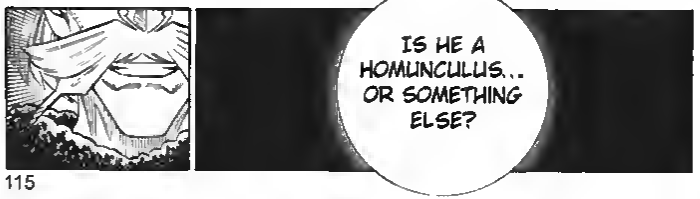
MAXIMUM ACCELERATION!
I WON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO DODGE OR EVADE!
KRK

FLY, MY BLACK DEATH BUTTER-FLIES!

KLAK
KLAK
HMPH.
SMOKE OR NOT, YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME INSIDE MY FOG
COME ON OUT I KNOW THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
FWOOO
I CAN DEAL WITH YOU EASILY BY REMAINING CALM.
BUT I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST MY TEMPER.
...AND THAT BOY WITH THE LANCE DISRUPTED MY PLAN...
YOU...
IT SEEMS YOU WEREN'T READY TO FLY ON YOUR OWN, AFTER ALL.

AND ONE MORE THING... SINCE NO ONE NOTICED, I DIDN'T MENTION IT, BUT...
WOOSH
NOT ONLY DOES IT DISRUPT THE SENSE OF DIRECTION ...
...IT AFFECTS DEPTH PERCEPTION TOO!
ZA
KKI
NO!!
HBBBG

WHO IS HE?
THAT MAN IN THE TANK ...
I READ NOTHING OF THAT IN YOUR BOOKS...
A HOMUNCULUS THAT FEEDS ON LIFE FORCES.
...OR THE NOTES YOU LEFT BEHIND.
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
THROB THROB
THROB THROB
IN THE END YOU MERELY HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS REAWAKENING.
I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR YOU. DIE!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


IS HE A HOMUNCULUS... OR SOMETHING ELSE?

DOD
HUFF
HUFF

HAD YOU NOT GIVEN IN TO YOUR PRIDE, YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD ETERNAL LIFE.
YOU WERE ONCE A MEMBER OF THE L.X.E.
NOW YOU LOOK LIKE THE FAILURE THAT YOU ARE.
KOFF

?!

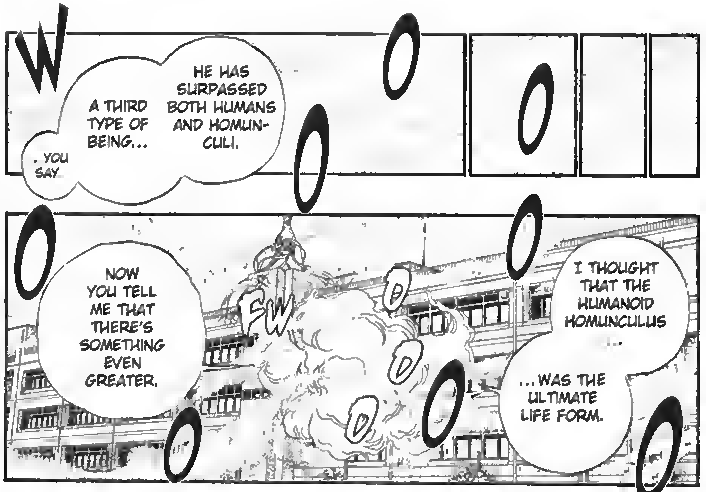
I PUT THEM IN PLACE WHILE YOU WERE JABBERING. NOW YOUR BUSO RENKIN IS USELESS.
MY BLACK DEATH BUTTER-FLIES... ...FILL THE AIR AROUND US.

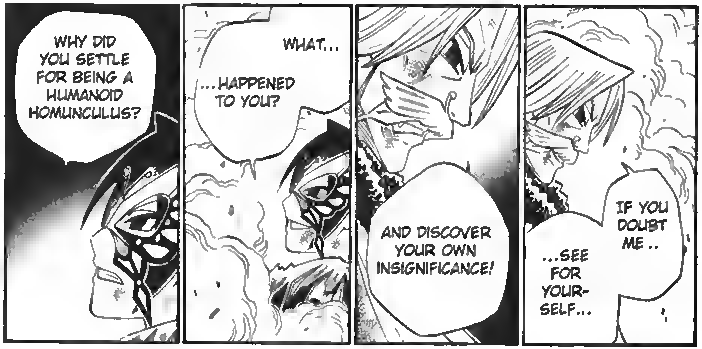
WAIT! STOP!!
I'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE.
HEH
IT WASN'T SO BAD.
YOU'LL BE BLOWN UP AS WELL!
ARE YOU MAD?!

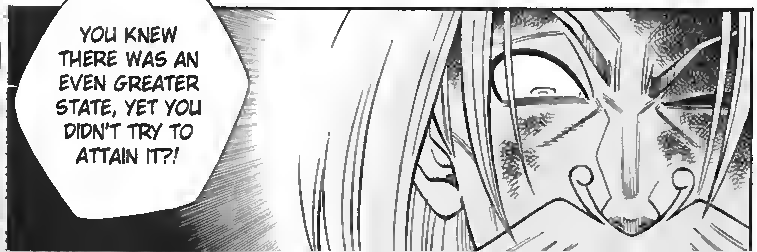
HE IS NEITHER HUMAN NOR HOMUNCULUS— BUT A THIRD TYPE OF BEING.
OF COURSE, HE WHO WOULD BE KING OF THE HOMUNCULI IS NO ORDINARY HOMUNCULUS...
BLUP...

HE IS THE ULTIMATE NEW LIFE FORM ON THIS PLANET!
...BUT, HE CAN EVEN FEED ON THEM.
HOMUN-CULI ARE NEARLY IMMORTAL

BUT UNFOR-TUNATELY, IT IS TOO LATE FOR YOU.
HAD YOU SEEN HIS POWER AND GLORY, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND.
MY MISSION IN LIFE BECAME TO HEAL HIS DAMAGED BODY AT ANY COST.
TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL I BECAME A HUMANOID HOMUNCULUS
MAYBE NOT.
KWUP
WHEN I SAW THE EXTENT OF HIS GREATNESS ...
...AS A SCIENTIST, AS AN ALCHEMIST, AND AS A SUPER BEING...
...I WAS IN AWE OF HIM.
WUP

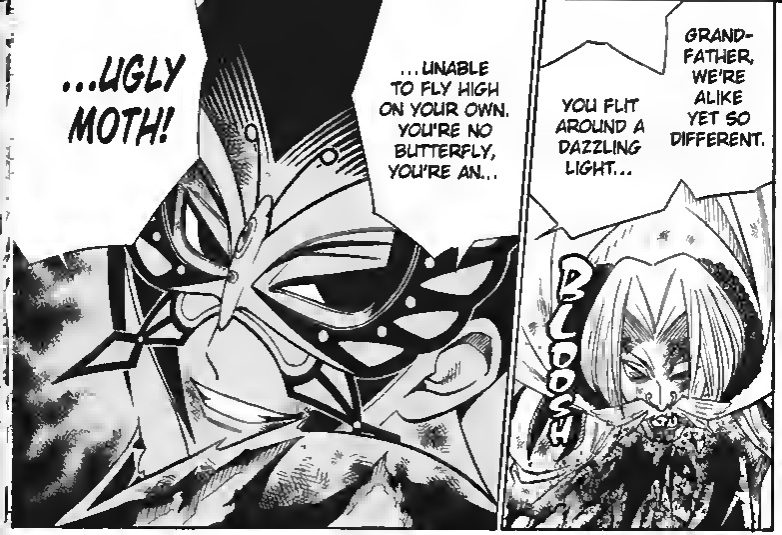

...YOU SAY.
A THIRD TYPE OF BEING...
HE HAS SURPASSED BOTH HUMANS AND HOMUNCULI.
NOW YOU TELL ME THAT THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN GREATER.
EW
I THOUGHT THAT THE HUMANOID HOMUNCULUS...
...WAS THE ULTIMATE LIFE FORM.


WHY DID YOU SETTLE FOR BEING A HUMANOID HOMUNCULUS?
WHAT...
...HAPPENED TO YOU?
AND DISCOVER YOUR OWN INSIGNIFICANCE!
IF YOU DOUBT ME..
...SEE FOR YOURSELF...


YOU KNEW THERE WAS AN EVEN GREATER STATE, YET YOU DIDN'T TRY TO ATTAIN IT?!

YOU MIGHT FIND IT AS ADDICTIVE AS I DID!
WHY NOT GIVE DEATH A TRY YOURSELF?!

ZAK
WHOOSH
GAAAAAAAAAH!

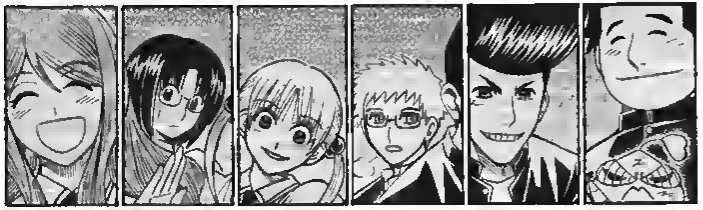

...UGLY MOTH!
...UNABLE TO FLY HIGH ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE NO BUTTERFLY, YOU'RE AN...
YOU FLIT AROUND A DAZZLING LIGHT...
GRAND-FATHER, WE'RE ALIKE YET SO DIFFERENT.
BLOOCH

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

I WON'T, TOKIKO !!
DON'T STOP, KAZUKI!

I'VE DECIDED!
...AND STRIVE FOR EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS WITH THESE WINGS!
I WILL CAST AWAY THIS IMPERFECT BODY OF MINE...

2-B
!!
2-B



KAZUKI!!
GUYS ...
HUFF
HUFF
KAZUKI, RUN!

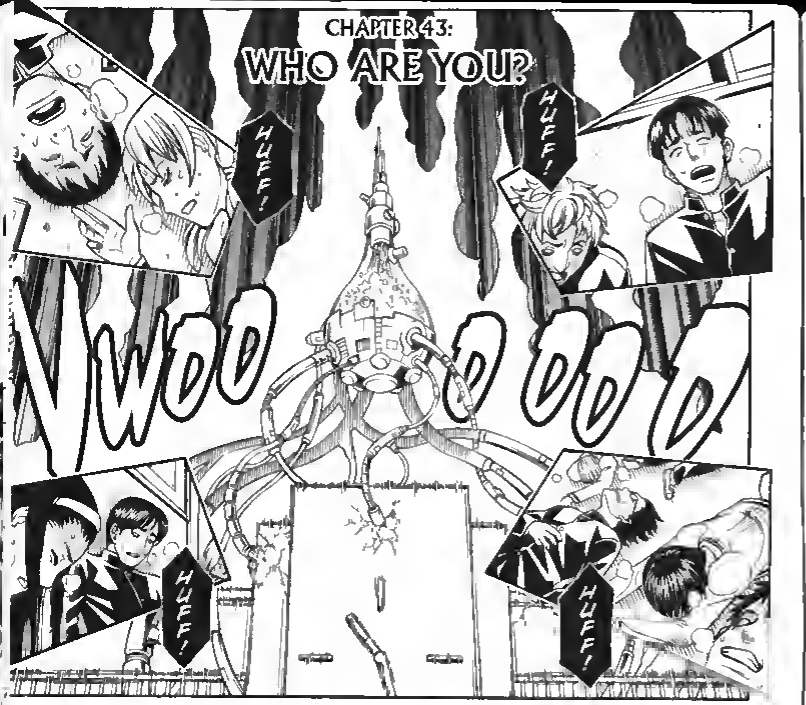
SHWOOO
UGH
UNH
I KNOW!
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE ROOF AS FAST AS WE CAN!
UNH
TUMP
AAH
SHWOO
AGH
OOH
UGH
AGH
TUMP

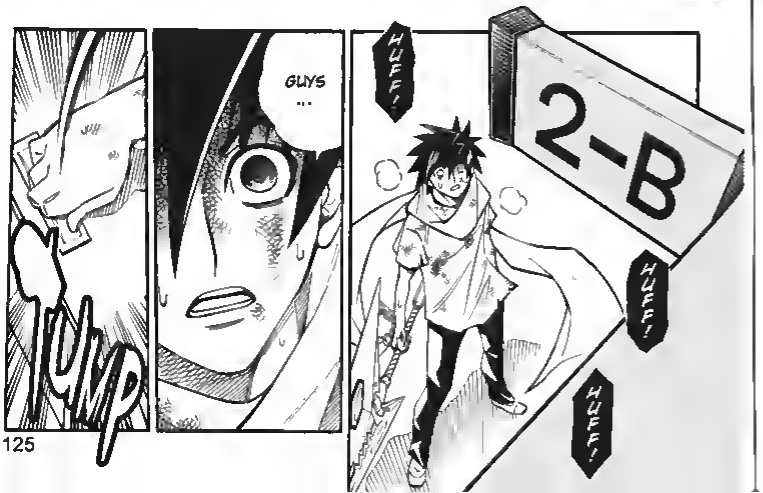
...BUT...
I KNOW ...

KA-ZUKI!
SKREEK

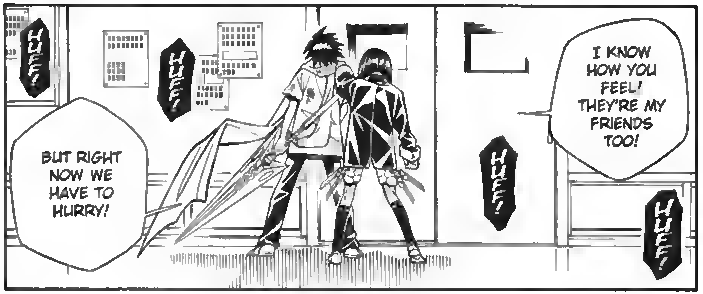
CHAPTER 43:

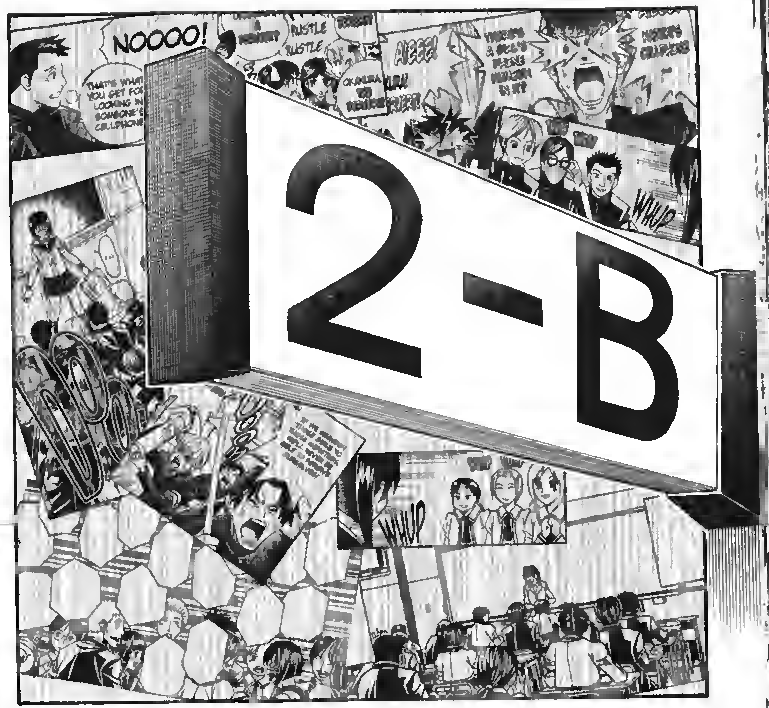
WHO ARE YOU?





Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン





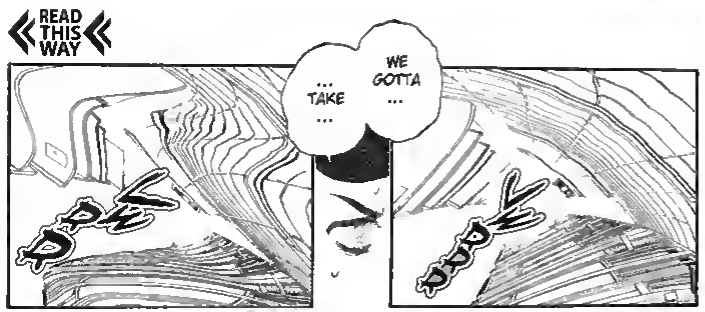
CHAPTER 43:
WHO ARE YOU?

和月伸宏

READ THIS WAY
2-B
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THEY'RE ALL RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY.
BUT ...
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
JUST GO.
BUT ...
WE'RE FINE, REALLY.
THESE GIRLS ..
...JUST GOT SCARED AND FAINTED.
WE'RE TAKING THEM TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
SHUNK
!
DON'T GO IN THERE!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?!
TOMP
GEEZ, OKAKURA!
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR VOICE OUT HERE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

FIGHT!
...GO OUT THERE AND...
KICK THEIR BUTTS!
SHWOOOO
THAT'S RIGHT...
TOKIKO ...
... ...

I SAID, WE'RE FINE!
NOW GET GOING!
THUD
WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU!!
SO GET OUT THERE AND...
THERE ARE STILL MONSTERS LEFT TO FIGHT!
YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN BEAT THEM!!


READ THIS WAY
... TAKE ...
WE GOTTA ...
DEZ
DEZ

FWUMP

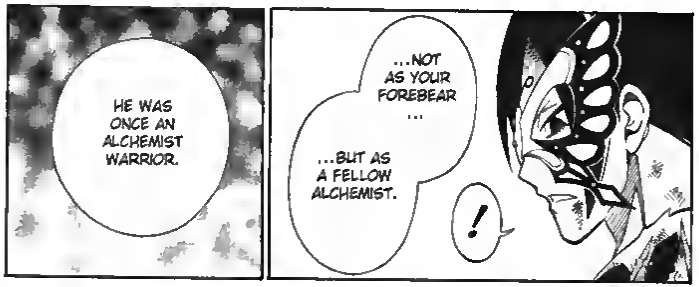
CHONK
SHORT-CUT?
WE'RE TAKING A SHORT-CUT!
THIS WAY, TOKIKO!
WHUP
HUH?

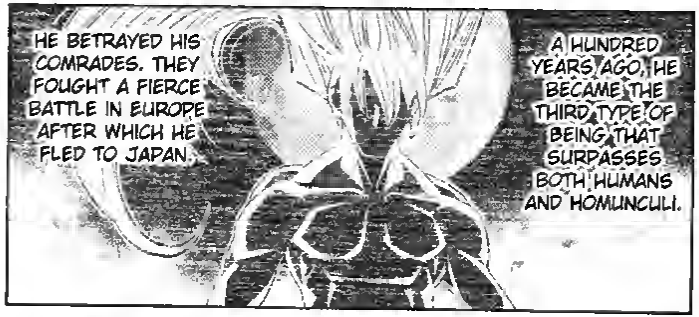
I KNOW.
SHWOOO
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY BRO-THER.
SOMETIMES HE OVERDOES THINGS.

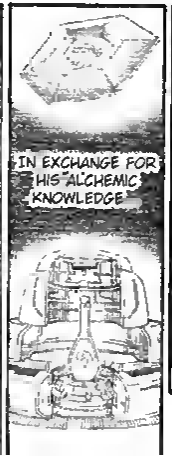
TMP
TMP
TMP TWO TWO
DID THEY GO?
WHAT A PAIN.
AW, WELL. THAT'S JUST HOW KAZUKI IS.

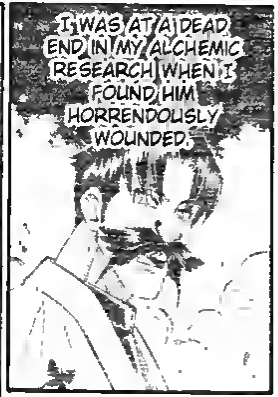
SHWOOO
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
WELL, SHALL WE?
YEAH.
LET'S GET THESE GIRLS TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

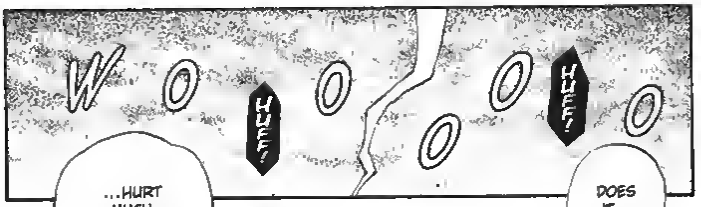
READ THIS WAY

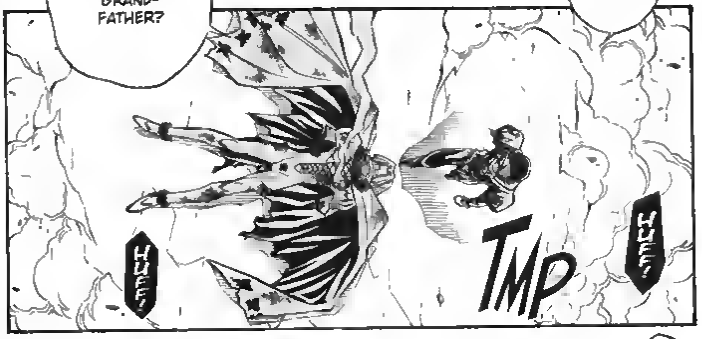


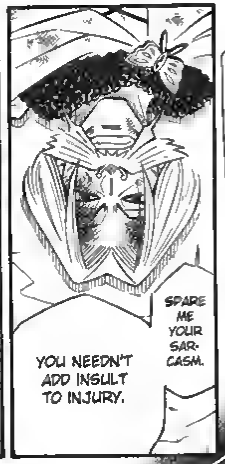

HE BETRAYED HIS COMRADES. THEY FOUGHT A FIERCE BATTLE IN EUROPE AFTER WHICH HE FLED TO JAPAN.
A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, HE BECAME THE THIRD TYPE OF BEING THAT SURPASSES BOTH HUMANS AND HOMUNCULI.



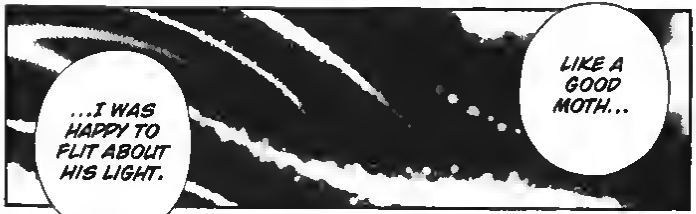


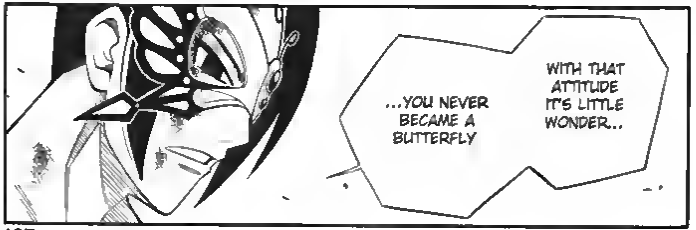




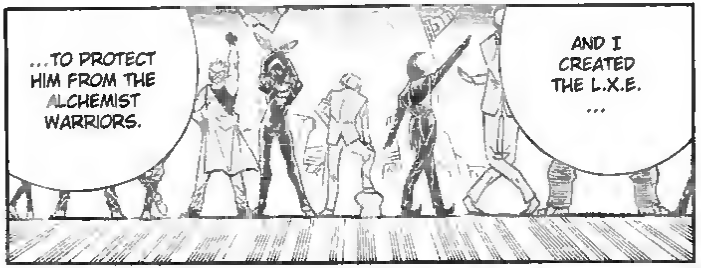


AS A PRACTITIONER OF ALCHEMY, AND AS HIS FRIEND...
...HEALING HIM WAS ITS OWN REWARD
...FROM AN UGLY MOTH?
A MOTH MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE FLAME.
FSSSSS
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING USEFUL.
NOT VERY INFORMATIVE, GREAT-GREAT-GRAND-FATHER.
HEH HEH HEH ...
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ...

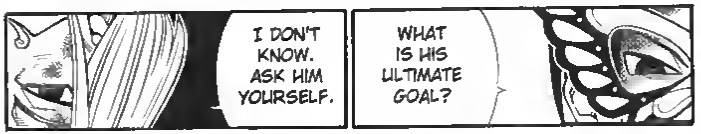

...I WAS HAPPY TO FLIT ABOUT HIS LIGHT.
LIKE A GOOD MOTH...

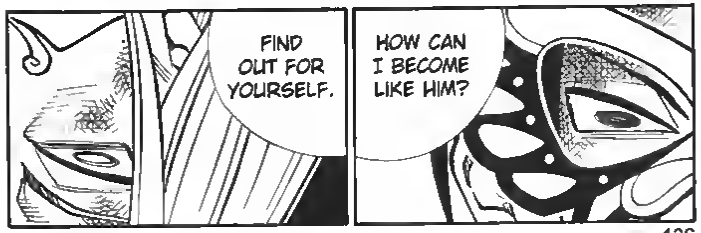

...YOU NEVER BECAME A BUTTERFLY
WITH THAT ATTITUDE IT'S LITTLE WONDER...

...I WORKED TO PERFECT MY REJUVENATION TANK.
SHWOO
FOR THE NEXT CENTURY...
BUT THIS MUCH...
...YOU ALREADY KNOW.


...TO PROTECT HIM FROM THE ALCHEMIST WARRIORS.
AND I CREATED THE L.X.E. ...

I DON'T KNOW. ASK HIM YOURSELF.
WHY DID HE BETRAY HIS COMRADES?


I DON'T KNOW. ASK HIM YOURSELF.
WHAT IS HIS ULTIMATE GOAL?


FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF.
HOW CAN I BECOME LIKE HIM?

READ THIS WAY
WHUP
HERE?
TOMP
RIGHT HERE!
...ENERGY!!
MAX...
TH
OOM
KREEESH

...HERE'S A HINT..
IF YOU WOULD REACH EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS AS A BUTTERFLY...
...AS A REWARD FOR DEFEATING ME...
...BEFORE I GO.
I'LL TELL YOU ONE MORE THING...
...BETWEEN HIM AND THAT YOUNG WARRIOR.
DON'T MISS WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
UNAWARE
...OF.
WHAT?!
IT WOULD SEEM THAT OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS
...ANOTHER POWER HAS BEEN AT WORK.. THAT I WAS..
FWOOOOOSH
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KAZUKI?!

!
!!
BLOOD
PIERCE THROUGH IT!!!
SHOOM
BOOM
KREESH KREESH KREESH

GOOD MORNING.
WHO ARE YOU?
BA-BUMP
?!!

CHAPTER 44:

THE PULSE QUICKENS

神月宏

Height: 180cm, Weight: 64kg
Born: June 28, Cancer, Blood Type: AB, Age: 55
Likes: Himself, butterflies, beings greater than himself
Dislikes: Beings who are inferior to himself
Hobby: Maintaining his mustache, alchemic research
Special Ability: Comical stomach tricks
Affiliations: L.X.E. (Founder)

Character File No. 24

BAKUSHAKU CHOUNO (DOKTOR BUTTERFLY)

Author's Notes

No matter how brilliant Koushaku might be, I knew he couldn't become a homunculus on his own, so I came up with this character. The idea for the L.X.E. came to me as I developed the story.

I wanted him to be one of Papillon's ancestors, but I didn't want them to be after the same thing. They're similar, but each of them is unique.

In the middle of this character's run, I thought he didn't have enough presence, but I'm pleased with how he turned out in the end.

The main design motif is his trademark butterfly mustache. As with Papillon and his mask, Dr. Butterfly wouldn't be Dr. Butterfly without it.

I know that "Doktor" is German and "Butterfly" is English, but don't pay any attention to it. Ignore the man behind the curtain. ..please.

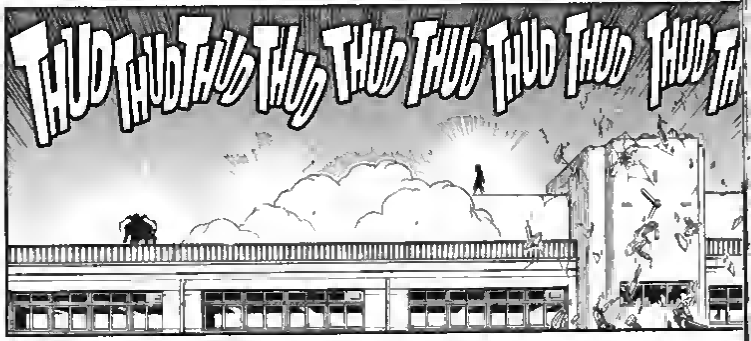
READ THIS WAY
AAAGH!
POP
TH
WHAM
YOU LACK TRAIN-ING.
SO FRAGILE
KRASH

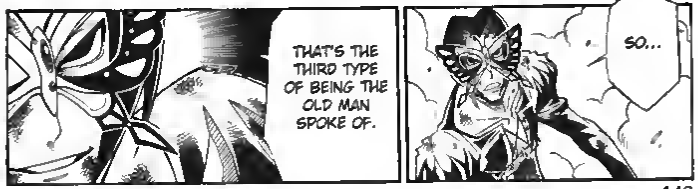
...CAN'T PENETRATE HIS SKIN?!
SUNLIGHT HEART...
A BUSO RENKIN...
AN ALCHEMIST WARRIOR?
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

COPPER SKIN THAT RADIATES HEAT!
PALE BLUE GLOWING HAIR!
SO THIS IS...
A MUSCULAR GIANT NEARLY SEVEN FEET TALL!

WINK
WINK
GOOD... MORNING ...
WINK
FSSSS
WINK
G--
!

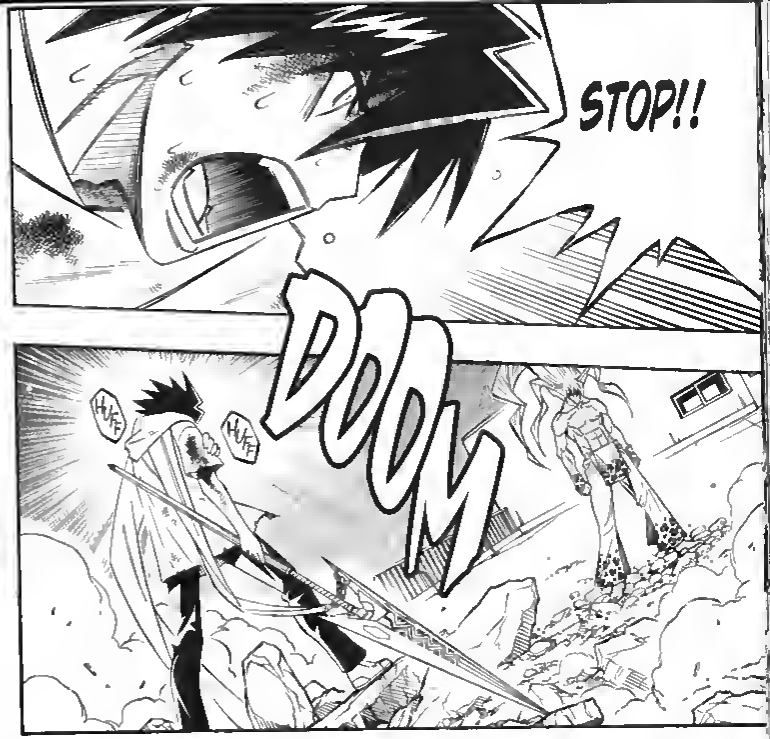
KAZUKI!
WHOOM


THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD TH


THAT'S THE THIRD TYPE OF BEING THE OLD MAN SPOKE OF.
SO...

...
VICTOR.
GOOD MORNING ...
IF THIS GOES ON...
..HE'LL DRAIN US ALL.
WE DESTROYED THE TANK ...
..BUT HE'S STILL GETTING STRONGER
SWOOD
H-HE'S DRAINING
...MY ENERGY!
!
KOFF
...AWAITS ALL WHO PRACTICE ALCHEMY.
DEATH ...
KLAK
GOOD NIGHT, BUTTERFLY.
BOOM
FWOOF

SHALL WE...
...DO BATTLE?
SWF
TOMP
TOMP
HUFF
HUFF
TO MP
VERY WELL.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...
...IS KILL ME
TOMP
TOMP
UGH!!


STOP!!
DOOM
HUFF
HUFF

IF I WANTED TO...
I COULDN'T STOP IT
...I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT STOP.
THEN...
SHOOO
THIS IS LIKE BREATHING FOR ME
IT'S NOT A WEAPON
THIS IS HOW I LIVE
IMPOSSIBLE

SUNLIGHT CRUSHER!!!
ENERGY!
HERE I COME!!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
MAX!
...I'D NEVER LET AN ALCHEMIST WARRIOR GET AWAY ALIVE ANYWAY.
OF COURSE
YOU'LL FIGHT.
GOOD.
...EVERY ONE OF THEM!
I'M GOING TO KILL ...
ENERGY ...
WHUP
HE... HATES US.
!
IF I DON'T STOP YOU...
...THE OTHERS WILL DIE!

KRA
KRA
KRA

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
WARRIOR
...TRAITOR?
WHAP
KRAK

KAZ...
WARRIOR TRAITOR!
BUM
VICTOR !!
FLASH

READ THIS WAY
BA-BUMP
UGH!!
UNK

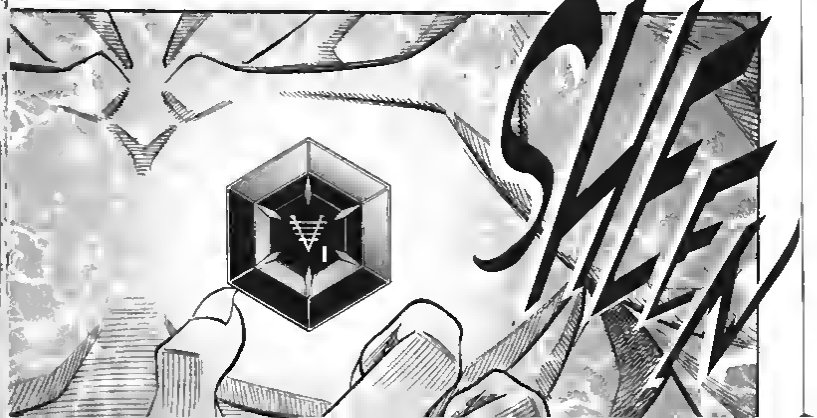
VIC-TOR !!
YOU CAN'T WIN.

THWAM
THE ALCHEMIST WARRIORS BETRAYED ME!
I'M NO TRAITOR!

GAGH!!

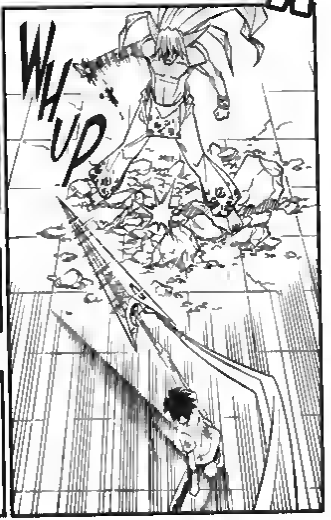
REN-
KIN!!
BU-
SO!

!!


SHEEN

!
SHUNK

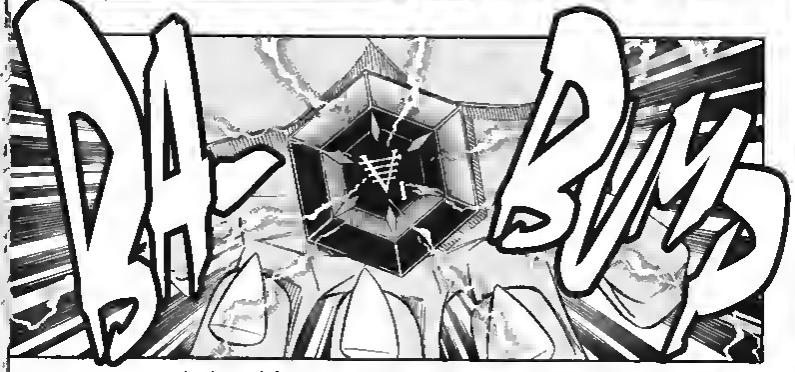
IS POWER BUILDING UP INSIDE HIM AGAIN?
KAZUKI ...


WHUP

...

...ARE YOU?
WHO ...

I WILL USE A WEAPON AS WELL.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
WHOEVER YOU ARE, IT SEEMS I'D BETTER NOT FIGHT YOU EMPTY-HANDED.



CHAPTER 45: A SPRING NIGHT OF TWO MONTHS PAST

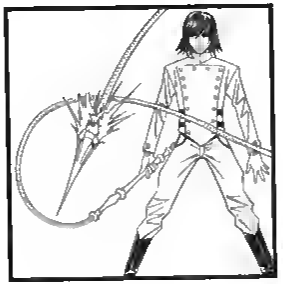
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A...
... BLACK KAKUGANE!
AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE ALCHEMIST WARRIORS.
EXCEPT FOR THEIR NUMBERS, THEY ARE ALL IDENTICAL IN SHAPE AND COLOR.
ONLY 100 KAKUGANE ARE STAMPED WITH THE ROMAN NUMERALS I TO 100.
WHAT IS THAT?

Obey the commands of my whip!

Buso Renkin File No. 5

ノイズィ ハーメルン

NOISY HAMELIN



- Kakugane Serial Number: LXI (61)
- Creator: Homunculus Jinnai
- Form: Steel Whip
- Main Color: Copper
- Special Abilities: The high-frequency sound this whip produces allows its wielder to control people hypnotically
- Special Traits: The effective range of the special ability is about 100 yards. There is no limit to the number of people it can control, but the greater the number, the weaker the effect.
  Amplifies faint sound waves to enable its wielder to eavesdrop at a distance.
  It can be used as a whip too, but does no more damage than a normal whip.

- Author's Notes:
  I wanted a special weapon for the attack on the dormitory story and came up with this. It's based on a lion tamer's whip.
  In terms of design, I used a picture I found in a book on weapons and added a nozzle to the tip.
  My favorite thing about this weapon was that it gave me the chance to draw Mahiro in a hypnotic state.

THERE'S NO TIME!
YOU WON'T LAST TILL THEN, TOKIKO!
WE SHOULD JUST TRY TO CONTAIN HIM UNTIL THE WARRIOR CHIEF COMES!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG HE IS!
TMP
HUH?
KAZUKI, DON'T!!
MAYBE I CAN WEAR HIM DOWN!
I KNOW I CAN HURT HIM AT LEAST!
GRAAH!!

BUSOU RENKIN
FATAL ATTRAC-TION!!
OF THE GREAT AXE...
DO

CHAPTER 45:
A SPRING NIGHT TWO MONTHS PAST
伸宏
貝

READ THIS WAY
SPLARK
!
SU
!!
IF IT GETS STOLEN OR BROKEN, YOU WILL DIE FOR SURE
TAKE BETTER CARE OF IT YOURS IS DIFFERENT IN A SENSE FROM MINE, AS IT ALSO ACTS AS YOUR HEART
IT'S YOUR ...
...NEW LIFE.
ZAK ZAK
KRE
KK
SW
LOOK

FIEND!!
THUD

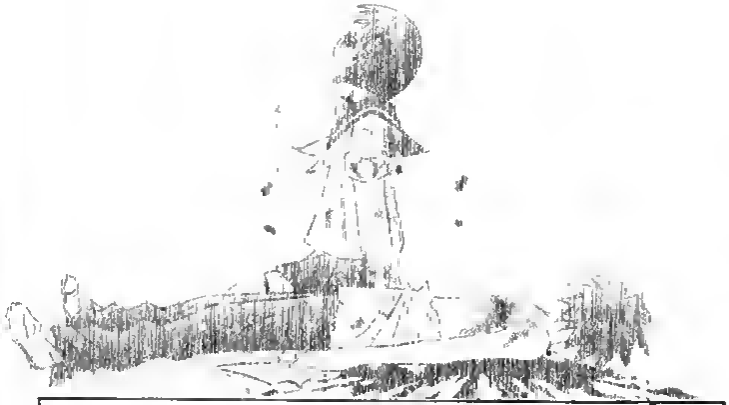
THE CLOSER YOU COME TO ME, THE FASTER YOUR ENERGY IS DRAINED.
SHWOOO
SWAY
!

...MUST BE READY TO DIE IN BATTLE.
ALL WHO CHOOSE THE WARRIOR PATH...
HUFF
HUFF
WARRIORS WERE MORE COMPOSED A CENTURY AGO.
DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD.

HE DIED IN VAIN.

PLURT
WHAP

SW
AAAAH!!



PLUP PLUP PLUP PLUP

KAZUKI WAS DIFFER-ENT!

NO!

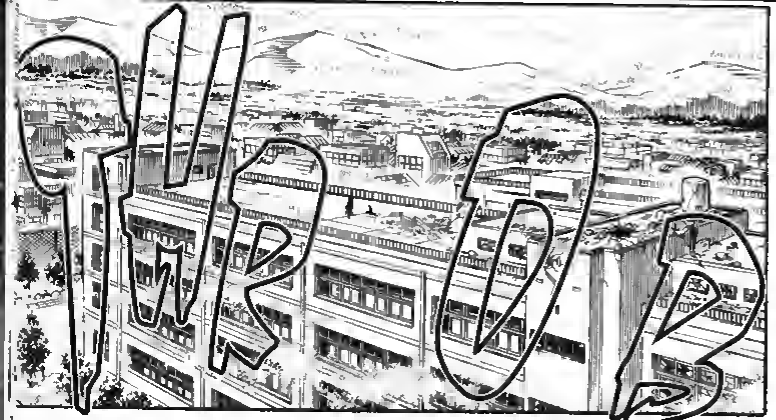
PLUP PLUP

ON THAT SPRING NIGHT TWO MONTHS AGO, I...

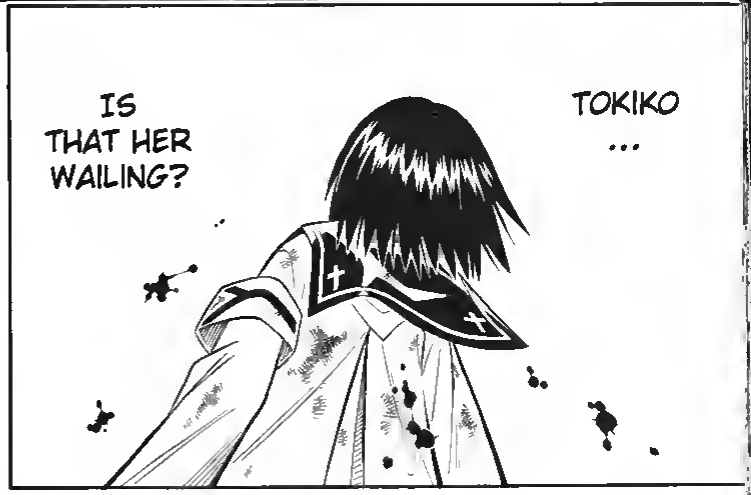
KAZUKI WAS JUST A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL KID.

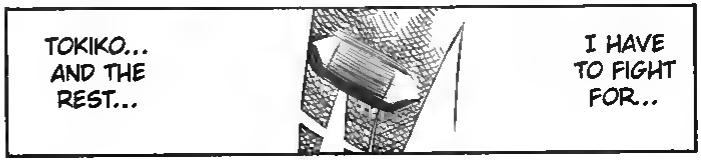
BECAUSE OF ME...

...DRAGGED HIM OUT OF HIS WORLD AND INTO MINE.

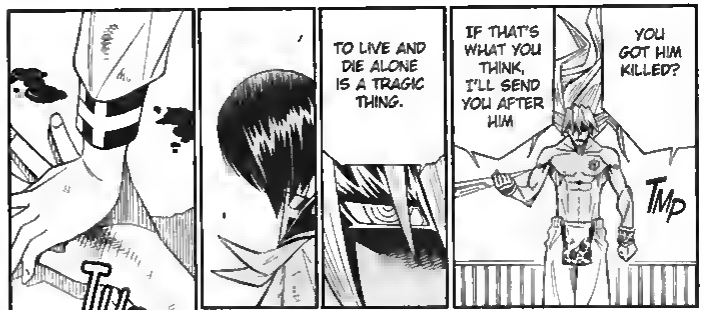

THUD

KAZUKI'S KAKUGANE . . .
IT'S PULSATING?
THROB
THROB
WHO


IS THAT HER WAILING?
TOKIKO . . .


TOKIKO... AND THE REST...
I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR..

. . .
FIGHT . . .


TUP
TO LIVE AND DIE ALONE IS A TRAGIC THING.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, I'LL SEND YOU AFTER HIM
YOU GOT HIM KILLED?
TMP

FIGHT!
KLAK
KLAK
FIGHT!

DR. BUTTERFLY'S KAKUGANE
WHAT LUCK. I'LL USE IT TO HEAL MYSELF
!

BLAST!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
I'M TOO WEAK TO MOVE.
HUFF
HUFF
SHWOO
HUFF

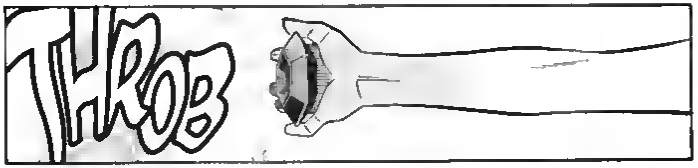
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
KAZU ...
TMP

FIGHT!

"HE CAN ABSORB LIFE FORCE WITHOUT PHYSICAL CONTACT AND CONVERT IT INTO ENERGY FOR HIMSELF!"
"HE'S TOO STRONG! IT'S AS IF HE'S DRAWING STRENGTH FROM OTHERS."
FIGHT !!
KR AK
KAZUKI ?!

NUMBER 70.
LXX.
THROB
THROB
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
WHAP
SHOOM

VOLUME 5: A FRIEND OF EVERYBODY (THE END)



WHAT DID I DO TO KAZUKI...

...ON THAT SPRING NIGHT TWO MONTHS AGO?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

suggested several times that the trio become Warriors themselves, but I always said no. Anyone can fight if they have to, but not just anybody can be a hero. The publisher doesn't like this theme, but I'm sticking to it.

Chapter 39: Overflowing Power

- The two-page spread in this chapter is, at least for me, the climax of the first part of Buso Renkin. It's good to have made it this far.

Class B-2 comes to the rescue. They ran away at the beginning, but I wanted to show that all of Kazuki's classmates were good people, so I added these panels.

The growing pile of blurred-out Homunculi. Now that I think about it, this was a pretty risky move. I never thought that my editor's comment, "Don't you think the mosaics make it seem even worse than it is?" would come back to haunt me.

Chapter 40: A Sign of Death

Moonface's replications were an homage to Agent Smith from the Matrix, but he just looks really freaky with all those differem heads. Then again, this is Moonface we're talking about.

The Silver Skin AT (Alternate Type) is modeled on a navy uniform from the Age of Discovery.

- Papillon with butterfly wings just doesn't seem right. But then again, I'm okay with it. This is Papillon after all, what other kind of wings could he have?

Chapter 41: Papillon vs. Butterfly, Part I

- The freak's forefather is also a freak, so Dr. Butterfly proclaims himself "Lord" Butterfly and dons a nifty new cape to commemorate it. I have to say that the Butterfly Suit and cape work really well together... really.

The characters in the hallucination may have been a little confusing for any new readers out there. I regret that a little. Still, I really enjoyed showing Papillon chasing his mask as it flutters away. But then, he's always fun to draw.

Chapter 41: Papillon vs. Butterfly, Part II

- I wanted to show how those two would try to outsmart each other, but it required too much exposition and slowed the tempo too much. I should've worked it out better in the scripting stage.
- Papillon announces that he wants to fly even higher as a butterfly. Since Papillon is the bad guy of this manga, I plan to expand on this in the future. He's not just an ordinary freak, you know?

Liner Notes #37~42

Let's start with the homework from the previous volume, the origin of the word "Carnival." Here are three possibilities:

1) The Latin *carnem levare* (to take away the meat)
   - From a traditional festival like Lent.
2) The Latin *carnem vale* (farewell to meat)
   - From a traditional festival like Lent.
3) The Latin *caro vale* (farewell to meat)
   - Related to the practice of abstaining from eating meat.

These are some possible origins of the word that I've found. Kurosaki spent time in Brazil where she learned the third etymology. She says that in Catholic countries there's a holiday during which they don't eat any meat, but before it begins, they have a big party and eat lots of meat. In any case, the word "carnival" has nothing to do with cannibalism. But this is manga so I can claim the license to fictionalize things to make the story more interesting. But it doesn't excuse the mistake. Please accept my apology.

Chapter 37: In the Same Category

- I'm very pleased that the fog turned out so well without the use of tone. I'm using a lot more tone than I did in my earlier manga, but I have to admit I don't like using it very much. (I even removed the tone from Kazuki and Tokiko's school uniforms because I didn't like the way it looked.) I want to learn to use tone as little as possible but use it effectively when I do.
- Like Kamen Rider and Cyborg 009, a true hero needs a scarf! That's why Kazuki wrapped that cloth around his face like that. It was a lot of fun to draw.
- I like the way a boy's school jacket looks on a girl. That's why Tokiko puts on Kazuki's jacket to disguise her school uniform. Actually, the hem of her skirt should have shown under the jacket, but I thought it looked better if you couldn't see it. Of course, that started a whole new controversy. She's wearing a skirt, I promise!

Chapter 38: A Friend of Everybody

- The title is in English, but I really wanted the meaning to be "ally" rather than "friend."
- I crammed as much as I could into a single chapter. I put so much into it that I dreamt my first editor was scolding me for it. It's kind of like drinking CalPico concentrate without water. Readers complain that my stories are hard to follow sometimes. I guess I need to work on making them so they'll go down smoothly with a nice finish like properly diluted CalPico.

The Idiot Trio has their moment in the spotlight. They symbolize Kazuki's normal life and don't usually fight. But they'll fight too if they have to. Up to now, it's been [continued]

Liner Notes #43~45

Chapter 43: Who Are You?

For three chapters straight, starting with this chapter, I was hit by a Jet Stream Attack* of toothache, headache, and stomach ache and was on the verge of passing out when I did this work. I think the content and the artwork show the effects. I'm very disappointed in myself.

* Jet Stream Attack--a three-pronged attack from the original *Gundam* anime.

In the first half of this chapter there's a recap of Victor's origin. I was afraid that the readers would need the background, but I'm not sure it worked or was even necessary.

The scene where Kazuki bursts upward through the floors and destroys the tank is one of my favorites. In this battle, Kazuki was the one who caused the most property damage. Does this disqualify him as a hero?

Victor appears. I did his work at the peak of my toothache and, looking back at it now, the artwork lacks impact.

Chapter 44: The Pulse Quickens

My headache was at its worse during this chapter. I wasn't sure whether to make Victor more intelligent or wilder. In the end, I couldn't make up my mind because my head hurt so much.

Victor's half-exposed behind was a topic of debate. Some liked it and others hated it. I think the fundoshi looks really cool. And to clarify, the pattern on his fundoshi and leggings is leopard spots, not roses! Although an assistant did make that mistake at one point…

Dr. Butterfly uses the last of his strength (he's only a mustache at this point) to talk to Victor. Here "good morning" and "good night" refer to birth and death.

Chapter 45: A Spring Night Two Months Past

This was the most difficult chapter in the entire volume. Kazuki became like Victor. My editors asked me, "Don't you think the main character of a boy's comic should have special powers?" After months of working it out, I've come to the conclusion that strength gained by means of special powers is superficial strength. In a comic, it's more important how a character uses his or her strength. From this point on, Kazuki will have to fight for himself instead of for others. But Kazuki will always be Kazuki, no matter what. My original goals and themes for this title won't change either.

Tokiko wails when she thinks Kazuki has been killed. This is no time for Tokiko to cry and show her tears. But I did wonder about not having her cry in this situation. So instead of "cry" I went with "wail." I think that's how Tokiko should be.

And so →

To be continued

和伸
月宏

Coming Next Volume

Kazuki's black kakugane is growing more and more deadly, and it will soon advance to the point where it begins to drain life from others around him. Trying to avoid this he goes on a secret mission with Tokiko to try and find a way to stop this from happening. They soon run into trouble when an elite group of Alchemist Warriors comes after them!

Available in June 2007!